



Kabul rebels fire at planes

KABUL (AP) — Dissident rebels Sunday tried to shoot down two civilian jetliners as they took off from the city's airport, the government said. Defence Ministry sources said as many as 30 rockets fell around the joint military-civilian airport as the Ariana Airlines planes departed for Peshawar, Pakistan, and New Delhi, India. Some missiles also slammed into the grounds of the presidential palace in central Kabul, but no one was injured or killed, according to the sources. President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government blamed forces loyal to Hezb-e-Islami, a faction that has threatened to down any civilian airliner arriving or leaving Kabul. The threat prompted the government to ground all Ariana flights for nearly two weeks. Sunday's attack was the heaviest in Kabul since a national council of tribal elders and religious leaders voted to keep Mr. Rabbani in office for two more years. But half of the 10 major rebel leaders who fought for 14 years to end communist rule opposed Mr. Rabbani's re-election, claiming it was rigged, and threatened to resume the civil war that has already left the nation in ruins.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Qadhafi in Egypt for talks on Lockerbie

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Sunday arrived in Egypt for talks with President Hosni Mubarak likely to focus on Libya's standoff with the West. The government-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Colonel Qadhafi arrived to the Al Salloum border post where he stopped for tea at a tent that was pitched there to receive him. He then left for the Mediterranean town of Marsa Matruh, 200 kilometres to the east, where he was expected to meet with local officials, the agency said. It said he was to leave for Alexandria Monday and then go to Cairo where he would meet Mr. Mubarak. MENA did not specify when the meeting will take place. There were no details about how Col. Qadhafi, whose country is under an air embargo, arrived in Egypt. But on previous visits, the Libyan leader has driven to the Egyptian border from the closest airport at Tobruk, 130 kilometres away. The U.N. Security Council imposed air, diplomatic and arms sanctions on Libya on April 15 to force it to surrender to the United States or Britain two alleged intelligence agents charged with the Dec. 1988 attack on Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

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U.S. hits Baghdad with cruise missiles

Defiant Saddam says battle far from over on second anniversary of Gulf war

Iraqi jet downed in north; Baghdad alters compromise offer, abandons police posts

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES launched another attack on Iraq Sunday, two years to the day after the Gulf war began in the allied effort to force Baghdad to relinquish Kuwait.

Bursts of anti-aircraft fire hit up the night sky over the Iraqi capital as they followed a series of skirmishes in the aerial exclusion zones, including one in which an Iraqi plane was shot down in northern Iraq earlier Sunday. It followed what appeared to be Iraqi concessions on two issues of contention — U.N. flights to Iraq and a series of border posts now inside what the U.N. considers as Kuwait. Officials in Washington said the attack included Tomahawk cruise

missile launched against an alleged Iraqi nuclear weapons development target near Baghdad.

That was intended "to ensure that Iraq never again acquires weapons of mass destruction," White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

"United States Tomahawk cruise missiles today attacked a nuclear fabrication plant near Baghdad, Iraq, which is part of its weapons of mass destruction programme. This plant made components for Iraq's nuclear enrichment programme, including parts of its electro-magnetic isotope separation which Iraq has used in its programme to create nuclear weapons," Mr. Fitzwater told reporters at the White House.

Mr. Fitzwater said he did not know if the attack on the Zaafaraniyah nuclear site — the second Western attack on Iraq in the last five days — had destroyed the facility. The spokesman would not say how many of the cruise missiles were launched or from where they originated but television reports said 40

were launched from naval vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf.

No U.S. aircraft were involved in the attack, Mr. Fitzwater said. Cable News Network (CNN) broadcast live scenes of anti-aircraft guns going off in the night sky, much like the night two years ago when the Gulf war began. Explosions could be heard in the background. The guns fell silent after about half an hour.

Later, CNN reported that what one witness described as "a rocket" had struck the Al Rasheed Hotel, the home of Western journalists in Baghdad, and that a civilian female kitchen employee had been killed. Three others were injured.

One witness said "huge great balls of smoke" could be seen near the Baghdad Conference Palace — which is still being repaired after being hit in the Gulf war.

Witnesses said that the presidential palace on the banks of the Tigris River had been sealed off.

President Bush was still at his Camp David, Maryland, retreated with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Mr. Fitzwater said there had been numerous consultations between the administration and a representative of President-elect Bill Clinton, who was due to arrive in Washington later Sunday for festivities leading up to Wednesday's inauguration.



Thousands of Iraqis Sunday stage a defiant demonstration on the second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war (AFP photo)

Speaking on U.S. television, Clinton spokesman George Stephanopoulos said: "Saddam Hussein must comply with U.N. resolutions. He must abide with

international standards. If he doesn't he will have to pay the consequences."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton "will do what is necessary to enforce United Nations resolutions."

'Missiles did not hit nuclear site'

THE CRUISE missiles fired at Baghdad hit a mechanical engineering plant and not a nuclear site, Cable News Network (CNN) quoted an Iraqi statement as saying Sunday.

The network said the statement, from the Iraqi Information Ministry, said the plant makes molds and dies. The White House said earlier that the plant, 20 kilometres from Baghdad, was a nuclear fabrication plant which made components for nuclear weapons.

At least three people were killed during the aerial attack on the Iraqi capital, a hospital doctor said.

"I know of three dead and 19 wounded in my hospital alone," doctor Fawzan Al Naim, head of surgery at Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital, told Reuters.

(Continued on page 2)

Tourabi denies army council to go soon

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Islamic leader Hassan Tourabi has denied saying his country's military rulers will step down soon, a suggestion which caused unease among government officials and set Khartoum huzzing with speculation. In a statement carried by government newspapers and broadcast on radio and television, Mr. Tourabi said Reuters misquoted him when it reported him as saying the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) would dissolve itself in a matter of weeks or months. "I explained that the RCC has remained a symbol of the revolution... and is a guarantee of the constitutional destiny (which) will carry out its function and finish its term. I did not estimate this in months," Dr. Tourabi said in the statement.

Sharaa visits Italy

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa left for Rome Sunday on a three-day official visit to urge Italian and Vatican officials to increase their role in the Middle East peace process. In a departure statement, Mr. Sharaa said he would brief his Italian counterpart, Emilio Colombo, Pope John Paul II and other leaders on Syria's stand on various developments in the region.

UAE paid \$10 b in Gulf war costs

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates paid 35 billion dirhams (nearly \$10 billion) as its contribution towards the cost of the Gulf war, according to a central bank report released Sunday. It was the first official account of the federation's expenditure on the crisis. The central bank said the country paid 14.2 billion dirhams (\$3.86 billion) in 1990 and 20.8 billion dirhams (\$5.66 billion) in 1991. The overall costs included aid to Arab and foreign countries to compensate them for economic losses caused by the crisis and spending on the military and humanitarian assistance, the report said, without providing a breakdown.

Rally held in support of Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A public rally was held Sunday at the Palace of Culture in Amman to voice support for Iraq and to call for an end to the embargo imposed on Iraq by the U.N. since its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Participants in the rally, which was held to mark the start of the Gulf war, called on the Arab Nation to unite and heal rifts. Speakers criticised the West's "double standards" in implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions.

Musa makes little headway in efforts to end expulsion crisis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa Sunday proposed compromises to defuse the crisis over the expelled Palestinians, but his meetings with Israeli leaders apparently ended inconclusively.

The Egyptian proposals "have been met with an open mind," Mr. Musa said after a one-hour talk with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "With this I don't mean I want to say that the prime minister has accepted this or that idea."

Mr. Rabin implied there was no breakthrough. "Certain ideas were brought by the foreign minister. As you know the government of Israel sticks to its

resolutions, to its decisions," Mr. Rabin said at a joint news conference with Mr. Musa.

Neither gave details. However, Mr. Musa quashed speculation that Egypt would take the evictees until their two-year term of exile is up, saying: "What we are working for is for them to return, not to come to Egypt."

Israel expelled 415 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Dec. 17.

The group is stranded in a tent camp in South Lebanon.

The expulsions have been condemned worldwide, and the U.N. Security Council has demanded the men be repatriated.

Domestic opposition also remains vigorous. On Sunday, civil

rights attorneys argued before a seven-judge supreme court panel that the evictees' rights were violated because the government expelled them in haste, sidestepping normal appeals procedures.

Attorney General Yoel Harish countered that the men were given the right to appeal retroactively and that 16 expelled in error can return immediately.

Foreign legal experts in attendance said Mr. Harish was implying the population was not entitled to protection under the Geneva convention on treatment of civilians in occupied territory.

(Continued on page 2)

Evictees mark one month in exile

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel marked their first month of exile in southern Lebanon Sunday by marching towards Israeli lines and staging a protest sit-in.

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Gaza Strip physician who is the men's spokesman, said after the evictees returned to their camp: "The march... symbolises our rejection of the expulsion orders and our determination to return home."

The Israelis in their self-designated "security zone," an occupied border strip, fired on the evictees when they staged a similar march last month, wounding four.

There was no shooting this time. But there was also no sign of a breakthrough in the impasse between Lebanon and Israel over the men's plight.

The Palestinians were expelled by Israel Dec. 17 in ostensible retaliation for the slaying of six Israeli troops by suspected Muslim fundamentalists.

Israel accuses the men, all from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, being supporters of the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements.

Lebanon, saying it will not become a "dumping ground" for Palestinians expelled by Israel, refused to accept the men.

Israel refuses to take them back, even though the mass expulsions has jeopardised the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks.

(Continued on page 5)

Deputies raise uproar over American attacks on Iraq

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament Sunday described the Jan. 13 U.S. air strike against Iraq and the House entrusted its Foreign Affairs Committee with drafting a statement condemning what some deputies described as "barbarous aggression" aimed at stifling the rebuilding process in the war-ravaged country.

The House also decided to convene a special session to discuss deputies' demands that Jordan withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace talks and Parliament

protest the U.S. air raid on Iraq at international organisations as well as a call on the Arab League to initiate reconciliatory efforts among Arab states.

The decision came after many deputies made strong statements in support of Iraq and characterised the United States as the major enemy of the Arab World.

Calling on the House to condemn "the barbarous aggression on Iraq," Deputy Fares Al Nabulsi contrasted the swiftness of American action towards Iraq with Washington's silence on Israel's violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 660 demanding the evacuation of over 400 Palestinians it expelled on Dec. 17.

Deputy Hani Al Shiyab proposed that the House issue a statement

exposing the "double standards" of the United States, which, he said, launched the attack on Iraq without Security Council authorisation.

"The statement should condemn the United States' position on the (Palestinian) evictees," he said, pointing to U.S. threats to veto any U.N. move to activate Article VII of its charter and enforce sanctions on Israel for refusing to abide by Security Council Resolution 799 on the expelled Palestinians.

Saying that the United States is the "obvious enemy" of the Arabs, Deputy Hussein Mijalli questioned the viability of continuing the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks. Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdullah Al Akaleh demanded that

(Continued on page 2)

Communist Party gets licence

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior Sunday granted a licence to the Jordanian Communist Party after it "pledged full compliance with the Jordanian Constitution and laws," Interior Minister Jawdat Sbou announced.

Last month, the ministry rejected the party's application for official recognition, saying its ideology and aims were incompatible with the Kingdom's Constitution.

Over the last three weeks, political parties and human rights organisations have protested the ministry decision and urged the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to officially recognise the Communist Party.

"We were informed that our party will be licensed," said

Yacoub Zayadin, general secretary of the party.

Dr. Zayadin said he had resolved "misunderstanding" over his party's platform during talks with the government.

"They were concerned about some articles in the party's constitution but it is no longer a problem," Dr. Zayadin said.

Jordan has so far licensed six parties since it lifted a three-decade-old ban on political parties last year. The new law requires prospective parties to have no foreign organisational and financial links and to respect the Monarchy, the Constitution and recognition of Islam as the state religion.

The communists, hunted for four decades, came out of the shadows under a new law permit-

ting a multi-party system.

It took effect Sept. 1. Apart from the state-controlled economic system espoused by the communists, which is at odds with Jordan's entrepreneurial system, their secular Marxist philosophy is also out of step with a constitutional provision that stipulates Islam as the state religion.

Dr. Zayadin said: "We're content with the ministry's decision." He said the party was legalised after several meetings with a ministerial committee headed by Sharif Zeid.

Last month, the Ministry of Interior rejected applications for licences by two leftist groups — because their manifestos were also considered at odds with the Kingdom's Constitution and laws.

Jordanian businessman denies role in alleged BNL-Iraq scam

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian businessman who has been mentioned as a possible key player in alleged Iraqi exploitation of billions of dollars in U.S. government-guaranteed credit to procure weapons has denied any involvement in the case, saying that he has been turned into a scapegoat of internal American politics.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Wafai Dajani, who operates a conglomerate of commodity trading and shipping agents based in Amman, categorically rejected suggestions in the American and British media that he was the middleman between the Iraqi government and the scandal-

plagued Atlanta branch of the Rome-based Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL).

BNL Atlanta is under investigation and its ex-manager Christopher Drogoul is on trial for allegedly channelling up to \$5 billion in American credits — mostly through the Department of Agriculture — to arming Iraq during the latter part of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The Wall Street Journal, in an article published last month, quoted one of the investigators as describing Mr. Dajani as "everyone's middleman," a charge which Mr. Dajani dismisses outright. "I am not a middleman," Mr. Dajani told the Jordan Times in Amman. "I am a businessman who works purely in shipping and

transportation."

The 56-year-old businessman says that he became involved in U.S. agricultural aid to Iraq programme in 1984 when he went to Washington to discuss how the wheat would be shipped. "It became very clear that I had to know both sides."

Mr. Dajani has been named by the independent counsel investigation report of the BNL case, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times, as a "unindicted co-conspirator in the action."

The BNL-Atlanta case is based on an argument that Mr. Drogoul was personally involved in a massive scam under which American wheat and rice were shipped to Aqaba for onward transportation to Iraq

but were diverted to Russia, which in turn sent tanks and weapons to Iraq.

But the Jordanian businessman argued that he was in no way involved in any such deal and that his role in the affair was strictly within the confines of transporting American, Canadian and Australian imports, obtained on credit, to Iraq.

"I was accused by the press of arms dealing," Mr. Dajani said, adding that he "was never presented with any substantial evidence about alleged misdeeds." He stressed that his books "here in Amman or anywhere else are open for full scrutiny by any government agency."

The Wall Street Journal's report pointed to Mr. Dajani

as the man with "too many footprints in the messy BNL affair." It quoted Democratic Representative Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas, chairman of the House of Representatives Banking Committee, as saying that he suspected that "Mr. Dajani somehow diverted U.S. commodity shipments to Russia, where he bartered them for tanks for Iraq."

Mr. Dajani asked why the U.S. government would not investigate these allegations with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's administration directly. "As the Yeltsin regime is very friendly with the U.S., why not ask the Russians about diversion of the wheat to Russia in exchange for arms?"

As for Mr. Gonzalez's statements, Mr. Dajani said the

Democratic representative "has a personal vendetta against (U.S. President George) Bush and (White House Chief of Staff James) Baker." Mr. Dajani contended that Rep. Gonzalez' interest in indicting was part of a political tug-of-war with the Republican administration just before November's U.S. presidential elections.

"Unfortunately, the conflict (between the U.S. and Iraq) polarised the tension and gave an opportunity to the Democrats to use the deals to hit at the Bush administration," Mr. Dajani said.

He also accused some columnists and reporters in the Western media of working for Israeli interests. They do so by "tarnishing the image of a suc-

cessful Arab," he maintained. He named New York Times columnist William Safire, who "represents the Israeli extreme right," as one of the main people working against him. "He has gone all the way to make this story far bigger than what it really is."

Prosecutors in the BNL-Atlanta case did not indict Mr. Dajani for lack of evidence against him. In response to questioning by Congress over this decision, however, the prosecutors said that "if the ongoing investigation produces additional evidence against Dajani, the decision not to charge Dajani can be revisited."

The prosecutors, in their (Continued on page 5)

U.N. food saves Somali village from starvation

BU'ALE, Somalia (R) — U.N. food drops have staved off starvation from this remote Somali village, isolated for months by floods, mines and clan warfare.

"It's a success story. We are sustaining the population, but it's not enough," said Geoff Lewis, emergency officer for the World Food Programme (WFP), on a visit to Bu'ale Saturday.

"There is no chronic malnourishment here, but there is malaria, scabies, other infections and some malnutrition."

Only mangoes were abundant in the few stalls doing business in Bu'ale market, but small quantities of wheat, red beans, tea, coffee beans, salt and vegetable oil were also on sale.

The WFP, a U.N. agency, dropped 21 tonnes of wheat in December and another 54 tonnes earlier this month to the 5,000 people remaining in Bu'ale and three nearby villages.

The aidrops should tide them over until they can harvest crops of maize and sorghum in two weeks' time.

Residents said three-quarters of Bu'ale's original population of 5,000 had already left, trudging through the thornbush scrub in search of food in distant towns.

"We ate mangoes for breakfast, dinner and supper," said Jamal Bashir, a merchant. "Children and old people were dying."

Mr. Bashir, like most people here, currently has no work. "No money, no car, no food — no business," he explained.

When Mr. Lewis surveyed Bu'ale on Dec. 1, he found people with nothing to eat but unripe mangoes, weeds and roots.

Now better-fed, the villagers clustered round, smiling and joking as Mr. Lewis tasted a root. "A bit like raw potato," he said.

Virtually all the concrete buildings in Bu'ale are roofless hulks, devastated by fighting and looting.

Villagers live in thatched mud huts. About 200 displaced nomads have built a settlement on the outskirts, scavenging cardboard and corrugated iron to make crude shelters.

Scores of them wandered out to greet Mr. Lewis when he landed with reporters in a small U.N. plane on a baboon-infested dirt airfield zone cleared from the bush by villagers.

Good rains have helped the sorghum stems grow to a healthy two metres high. Some came from local seed and some from Tanzanian varieties donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross in September.

Mr. Lewis hopes the farmers will trade their surplus local grain for WFP-provided cooking oil. Before the next planting season the agency would redistribute the grain stock to other lower Juba villages which have lost their seed stores to looters.

"We are looking to start development work as soon as possible," Mr. Lewis said. "Once people get fed, we can turn to water projects, tools, health clinics and livestock."

"We have already started food-for-work programmes in Bardere. We don't want people to be reliant for ever. Free food handouts have to be a short-term thing," he added.

The WFP and other relief agencies want to help people back to their farms and pastures now that the U.S.-led task force has reopened supply routes to towns like Baidoa, Hoddur, Wajid and Kismayu, which drew in thousands of starving Somalis.

Mr. Lewis said food distribution in those places had also acted as a magnet to bandits and looters. Relief groups keen to repatriate 400,000 Somali refugees from Kenya had to take care not to create new centres of instability unwittingly.

"We want to keep them dispersed. Food aid can attract insecurity, so we have to be cautious," he said.

Americans split on Iraq raid

NEW YORK (Agencies) —

Almost half of Americans think the U.S. air attacks on Iraqi military sites were appropriate

but almost as many feel the response should have been stronger, according to a poll released Saturday.

The Newsweek magazine poll also said 49 per cent of respondents felt there should be another, larger attack on Iraqi military sites if Iraq provocations continue, and that some eight in 10 Americans support military action to force Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power.

Only eight per cent of those questioned felt the attacks on Wednesday by U.S. and British bombers "went too far." Forty-six per cent said it was the right response and another 43 per cent said the attacks did not go far enough.

President George Bush said the attacks were in retaliation for Baghdad's continued violations of ceasefire terms reached after the 1991 Gulf war, during which U.S.-led forces reversed Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Eighty-two per cent of those polled supported resumed attacks to force the Iraqi leader from power while 15 per cent were opposed. The support was the highest for President Saddam's ouster of any of seven polls conducted by the magazine over nearly two years.

But 46 per cent of Americans would support normal relations with Iraq if it stopped violating the ceasefire provisions. Forty-seven per cent were opposed.

The poll also showed that 68 per cent approved of how President-elect Bill Clinton has handled his transition to power thus far, eighteen per cent disapproved.

The telephone poll of 753 adults was conducted Jan. 14-15 by the Gallup organization for the magazine. The margin of error was four percentage points either way.

U.S. hits Baghdad with missiles

(Continued from page 1)

was taking off south of the 36th Parallel, the boundary of the zone, in a formation with other aircraft.

Mr. Fitzwater said allied forces also hit an Iraqi surface-to-air missile battery after a radar "locked on" to an allied plane. The Iraqis said the town of Tall-Afar, about 60 kilometres west of the city of Mosul, was attacked with a missile.

On Wednesday, more than 100 U.S., British and French warplanes attacked Iraqi missile bases in and near the southern zone as Baghdad confronted the West in a dispute over the "no-fly" zones and compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions.

President Saddam's defiant remarks came shortly after Iraq said it had "repulsed enemy targets" — presumably allied reconnaissance jets — three times over the northern air exclusion zone.

The agency also reported that Iraq made a new offer to the United Nations — to safeguard flights of U.N. weapons inspectors from Bahrain to Baghdad if the United Nations would stop allied planes from the southern "no-fly" zone during the U.N. flights.

President Saddam's nationally televised address marked the second anniversary of the Jan. 17, 1991, start of the Gulf war, in which U.S.-led multinational forces ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

President Saddam said that during the Gulf war, "Baghdad and its sister cities in Iraq bore the shelling of 3,000 warplanes from the beginning of the

"mother of all battles" until the ceasefire."

He said that the allies had failed in their anti-Iraq conspiracy.

"The faithful Iraqi army will not be defeated, and Baghdad and its sister Iraqi cities ... will all be castles of freedom," he added.

"If the enemy continues its military aggression, or even if it stops, it is the final and decisive chapter which will be the end of all chapters."

He also commented on the ruling Al Sabah family of Kuwait. The oil-rich emirate is grappling with allegations of major financial scandals that reach into the royal family.

"You should remember that the traitors of Al Sabah act towards Kuwait not as a charge or responsibility," President Saddam said.

"They act as if they had rented Kuwait, during which time they achieve the purpose of their masters in a manner hostile to the people and history."

He said that before Iraq's invasion put you Kuwaitis any day in one basket with the traitors of Al Sabah, President Saddam said in a direct appeal to Kuwaitis.

"... This is the real face of Baghdad and this is the face of Baghdad that you know," he said.

He said that before Iraq's invasion the emir of Kuwait had a personal fortune of \$60 billion. "He is a thief appointed (by the West) to cut a people from its roots," he said.

President Saddam accused the United States and its Gulf war allies of hijacking the United Nations. "They are imposing on the council their own wills and forcing it to issue resolutions

to harm Iraq."

He accused the world body of closing its eyes to "Israeli atrocities in Palestine."

Iraq threatened Saturday to down allied planes entering its territory, and a confrontation simmered on the border with Kuwait over six Iraqi police posts the U.N. demanded removed.

Later, a U.N. source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the police posts had been abandoned Sunday afternoon.

A Kuwaiti official said he had been told of the development by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM).

He said he was certain that the police posts, which are now in Kuwaiti territory following the demarcation of the border by the United Nations, would be dismantled as soon as possible.

Iraq, which has rejected the border demarcation, earlier ignored a deadline of midnight local time on Friday for removal of the six police posts.

A Kuwaiti official said an Iraqi was killed and one arrested Sunday in a clash with a Kuwaiti border patrol. A third man escaped, an official said.

Adel Ibrahim, the Interior Ministry spokesman, would not characterize the Iraqis involved.

There have been frequent border clashes between police and smugglers engaged in a lucrative trade in whiskey, guns and sheep.

Earlier Sunday, thousands of Iraqis took to the streets for the "Aggression Day" declared by the government to mark the war anniversary.

"Bush, Bush, listen well, we love Saddam," chanted the crowds moving through the streets carrying torches.

political crisis between Jordan and Egypt," he said, demanding a government account of the matter.

In its three-hour session, the House also discussed a report on deputies' attendance of the House meetings with Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat urging deputies to attend the sessions on time.

Many deputies have been missing the House session, causing delays of the meetings due to the lack of quorum.

"Attending the House's session is a duty and not a voluntary work," Dr. Arabiyat told deputies.

The House also discussed a number of recommendations made by its Administrative Committee on parliamentarians' requests for increased salaries, a complaint by employees of the Natural Resources Authority about a reduction of their organization's financial allocations and the legality of licensing private security companies.

The House endorsed the recommendations of the committee and referred them to concerned government agencies.

Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul said private security companies were licensed in accordance with the law. He countered Deputy Dughmri's argument that such companies could eventually pose a security threat in the country, saying that the government strictly monitors the work of these companies which provide security services to private sector organizations upon request.

He said their work does not undermine or conflict with the duties of police while Mr. Dughmri said administrative services should operate such services as stipulated by the relevant law.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill two civilians in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen shot dead two civilians in separate attacks in Algiers in the past 48 hours, the official news agency APS said Saturday. Police described the killers as "terrorists," the official term for Muslim fundamentalists who are blamed for killing more than 210 members of the security forces last year. Three men gunned down trader Mousleh Thajiat, 41, outside his shop in Hussein Dey, a fundamentalist bastion, Thursday. The second victim, 23, who was not identified, was killed in another southern suburb, Eucalyptus, Friday night. Last year about a dozen civilians, including a militant communist and a father of two policemen, were killed in similar fashion.

Morocco jails 2 Italians on drug charges

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan court has jailed two Italians for two and a half years for drug smuggling, the official news agency MAP said Saturday. MAP said the court in the northeastern town of Oujda also fined them 8,000 dirhams (\$900) each. The two, who were not named, were arrested on Dec. 17 as they were crossing the border between Morocco and Algeria. Seven kilograms of cannabis resin, with an estimated street value of \$24,000, was found in 63 condoms concealed in the body of their car.

Iranian jailed, canded in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A former Iranian national soccer captain has been sentenced to two years in jail and given three strokes of the cane for possessing opium in Malaysia, a newspaper said. A magistrate's court in petaling Jaya Town found Reza Rajabi, 34, guilty of possessing 202.5 grammes of opium in a plastic roll in a jacket and another 1.5 grammes in a plastic bag in his briefcase on March 9 last year, the New Straits Times said. There were no further details. Malaysia has banned more than 100 people, including foreigners, under its drug laws which prescribe the death penalty for possessing more than 15 grammes of heroin or 200 grammes of cannabis.

Spanish royals postpone visit to Israel

MADRID (R) — Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia have postponed a visit to Israel planned for next month because the king's father is ill, the royal household announced. The statement gave no alternative date for the visit, which had been set for Feb. 15 to 17. The king's father, Don Juan de Borbon y Battenberg, has been in hospital since last September with a throat complaint. The king and queen cancelled visits to Turkey and Bulgaria late last year to be near him. The newspaper El Pais reported Friday that the royal couple were calling off their visit to Israel because of Spanish anger at Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon, but government officials would not comment on this.

Turkey, Tunisia to discuss security

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin is visiting Tunisia for talks on security and prevention of terrorism, an official statement said. "We will have talks with Tunisian officials on ways to boost security and seek effective measures to prevent terrorism," Mr. Sezgin was quoted as saying in the statement. Turkey and Tunisia signed an agreement in 1990 to exchange security information and to cooperate in battling drugs trafficking and violence.

Cypriot commerce minister resigns

NICOSIA (AP) — Commerce Minister Takis Nemitsas resigned Saturday, a day after apologising to the leader of the opposition for making a derogatory outburst against him. The resignation came three weeks before the Feb. 7 presidential election and two days after parliament voted 23-16 in Thursday's budget debate to cut the provision for Mr. Nemitsas' salary and expenses allowance. Glafcos Clerides, the leader of the right wing Democratic Rally opposition party, led the demand for the salary cut declaring this would signify "our total lack of confidence in Mr. Nemitsas." Opposition parties have accused Mr. Nemitsas, a millionaire businessman, of lying to a parliamentary committee and of using his frequent official visits abroad to clinch deals for his family's manufacturing business. Mr. Nemitsas denied the charges. He reacted to the parliament vote by charging that 74-year-old Clerides was "no longer aware of what he does or says because of old age and drink." Mr. Nemitsas was forced to apologise Friday, however, after his outburst sparked off demands for his resignation by three of the four parties in parliament. President George Vassiliou also issued a statement Friday apologising to Mr. Clerides for his minister's outburst and this apparently forced Mr. Nemitsas to submit his resignation Saturday.

Snowfall in Iranian desert crushes houses

NICOSIA (R) — A freak snowstorm lasting four days crushed mud and brick houses and set off a wave of traffic accidents in the central Iranian desert, the Iranian news agency (IRNA) said. "It caught the people off and virtually unprepared... the snowfall finally stopped Friday morning after turning everything said everywhere outside into white," IRNA said. It said the storm in Yazd, 800 kilometres south of Tehran, was the desert city's first snow in more than 15 years. The heavy snowfall caused three houses to collapse and more were expected to be damaged, IRNA said. Police reported 10 car accidents in one 24-hour period.

Hungarian foreign minister visits Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky began a five-day official visit to Israel Sunday saying he hoped for progress this year towards peace in both the Balkans and the Middle East. The two countries renewed diplomatic relations in 1989 after a 22-year break over the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. "Both Israel and Hungary are situated in crisis areas in the Balkans and the Middle East and we hope this year that we see progress or possibly even a solution to the problems of these two areas," he told reporters. He will meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and representatives of the 250,000-strong Hungarian Jewish community.

Iranian papers assail U.S. policy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian newspapers said Sunday that Washington's policy in the Gulf is to

demolish Saddam Hussein on the one hand while allowing him to stay in power so the United States can exploit the crisis.

The English-language International said "Saddam remains at the helm of power because Washington wants the demonising of the Iraqi ruler to continue, to consequently fish in muddy waters."

It added that "peace and harmony in the Persian Gulf region are detrimental to American interests and it is unresolved conflicts which keep the U.S. economy in shape."

The newspaper implied that the billions of dollars in U.S.

arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other oil-rich states in the Gulf since the 1991 war was a major reason for Washington's alleged policy.

The newspaper was quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicotia.

Kayhan said: "If the past is any lesson, the latest U.S. action substantially implies that Saddam will have to remain in power in Baghdad to allow the Western superpower to conduct business as usual in the strategic Persian Gulf region."

The newspapers urged regional rulers to focus on getting rid of Saddam, a move that in Iranian eyes would eliminate the need for the U.S.-led allies to maintain military forces in the region.

Tehran, which is showing signs of more of an expansionist policy, considers itself the main power in the Gulf and insists on being part of any security there.

The presence of Western forces is anathema to the fundamentalist regime.

"It is so difficult for the regional rulers to realise that it is the fire which should be extinguished. The smoke is of secondary importance and will automatically disappear after the fire is put out," Kayhan said.

The hardline radical daily, Jomhuri Islami, charged that neither the Gulf war or the 1991 allied air raids on Iraqi missile bases were "meant to inflict blows on the person of Saddam or his power bases."

Egypt seeks return of relics from Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Egyptian archaeologists arrived in Israel Sunday seeking the return of more than 2,000 artifacts unearthed in the Sinai Peninsula while it was under Israeli occupation.

The return of the relics is the last item in the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty has yet to be implemented.

Kamel Fahmy Ibrahim, head of the Egyptian Antiquities Department, and six archaeologists are here to work out a timetable for the transfer.

The Israelis have agreed in principle to return the artifacts taken during their 15-year occupation, but want to finish studying the finds, said Efrat Orbach, spokeswoman of Israel's antiquities authority.

"There is a delay. We will not return the finds until the scholars finish their research," she said. She added the research would take "several more years."

Professor Eliezer Oren, who spent 10 years excavating in Sinai, said he would settle for a deal that allows Israeli scholars to study the artifacts in Egypt.

"The return should in no way mean an end, but in my opinion the beginning, of a process of cultural cooperation between the Egyptians and us," he told Israel Radio.

The problem is that the negotiations are not done between the archaeologists but through diplomats, through their diplomats who have interests and timetables other than ours," Mr. Oren said.

Israel scholars maintain that Sinai's history was thinly explored until Israel seized the territory in the 1967 war.

"The Sinai was an almost virgin land when it came to excavations," said archaeologist Uzi Dahari, head of the Sinai project at the Israel Antiquities Authority.

He told Israel Radio some 60 sites were excavated, revealing artifacts from throughout history, including Jewish, Arab and Christian periods.

Sinai is where Moses received the Ten Commandments and the children of Israel wandered for 40 years. Egypt's pharaohs built fortifications in Sinai. Building continued in the Greco-Roman times and under Islam, when fortresses were built against marauding Bedouins.

Musa

(Continued from page 1)

The court, which allowed the expulsions to take place despite objections at the time, asked for the first time for a list of those expelled. Mr. Harish did not have one ready.

The seven-judge panel began the first day of its hearing, demonstrators wanting the expulsions cancelled competed outside with groups demanding Mr. Rabin expel more Palestinians.

Hearings on the legality of the expulsions continue Wednesday.

Last week it reversed policy and agreed to permit the International Red Cross access to the tent camp, and foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after meeting with Mr. Musa that Israel was ready to make more "humanitarian" gesture.

"Every humanitarian consideration will be met with sympathy by the Israeli government," Mr. Peres said Sunday. "We do not look for any collision course with the United Nations."

The Palestinians are short of fuel, food and medicine.

The Red Cross said Sunday it had abandoned a plan to use a U.N. helicopter to take medicine to the Palestinians and evacuate nine evictees Israel said were expelled by mistake.

Bernard Pfefferle, chief delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said the plan was put on hold because of conditions raised by the United Nations in New York and the Red Cross was now pushing to go by land through Zemaraya.

Israel agreed to the proposal Friday. The Lebanese government said Saturday it needed answers from the ICRC before it would authorise the relief flight.

Mr. Pfefferle declined to say what were the U.N. conditions for using the helicopter. The ICRC flew to the camp a week ago and evacuated a sick evictee

Minister lowers profit on parts

AMMAN (Petra) — Wholesale and retail merchants of auto spare parts can now make a total of 27 per cent profit on the total cost of parts sold to the public, Minister of Supply, Mohammad Saggar, declared Sunday. This reflects an adjustment to the 25 per cent profit announced at the end of last month.

The profit ceiling for auto spare parts should not exceed 27 per cent; to be distributed between the wholesale and retail stores in the Kingdom, said the minister in a statement. The 27 per cent profit should be calculated on the total cost of the imported item, which takes into account the cost of the item, customs duty, transportation, insurance and banking expenses, as well as other fees, statement said.

Two weeks ago the Minister announced that the cost of spare parts for all types of vehicles be reduced by five per cent in the 1993.

The minister, announcing the adjustment at a meeting with auto spare parts merchants, said their profit should be reduced from 30 to 25 per cent on all parts.

Sunday's statement said that all spare parts for sale at stores should carry clearly displayed price tags or be listed in a register for customers to see.

Merchants refusing to sell any spare parts found in their stores would be violating the Supply

Ministry laws, the statement said. It said that should spare parts agents declare that they are lacking the required spare parts, they must issue a note to the customer to this effect and try to supply the missing part within 45 days.

At his meeting with the merchants, the minister was quoted as saying that the current economic circumstances facing the country and the Jordanian people require merchants to contribute towards alleviating the financial burdens already on car owners. He called on agents and dealers to make available all types of parts requested by car owners, and added that the Ministry of Supply would do all its best to protect the consumers' interests within the law.

All draft laws to go to new council

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday approving the creation of a new department at the Prime Ministry to be known as "the Legislation and Opinion" Council whose views are to be consulted on every draft law or regulation before it can be enforced.

Comprising a group of experts on legal and economic issues, the council will consist of three departments: a department of legislation, a department on modernisation legislation, and a legal department, according to a statement.

The statement said the council will be directly linked to the Prime Minister and will be conducting studies on draft laws and regulations that are referred to it. The council will have the authority to introduce amendments to provisions included in draft laws, and can redraft those laws which are referred to it by the Prime Minister.

The statement said that the council will also contribute towards modernising various legislation in Jordan, organising seminars and lectures, and offering opinions and advice on various legal issues concerning government departments and public institutions especially, where differences of opinion or difference in the application of laws occur.

The statement said the council would also draft decisions and regulations upon the request of the Prime Minister.

All draft laws or regulations concerning the public interest should first be endorsed by the council, the statement said.

According to the statement, the council came into being on Jan. 16, 1993.

Workshop addresses nuclear accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Sunday opened a workshop attended by experts from various departments to discuss a national plan to deal with nuclear accidents and radiation.

Ministry Secretary-General Abdul Wahhab Al Zoubi told the opening session that Jordan was drawing a national plan to study actual accidents which occurred around the world and the means adopted to deal with them.

The ministry wants to include in the national plan effective precautionary measures against radiation. Mr. Zoubi said in his address to the meeting organised in cooperation with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Jordan was among the first Arab countries which called for an emergency meeting to discuss the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident of 1986 and to exchange information and data towards dealing with nuclear accidents in the Arab region, said Mr. Zoubi.

He said that the ministry has worked out a plan to measure natural radiation activity and has set up a special observatory centre to measure radiation in the environment caused by various sources.

Taking part in the workshop were representatives from the Ministries of Energy and Mineral Resources, Water and Irrigation,

Farhan defends IAF role

By Sa'eda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Until now, people still doubt the relationship between the Muslim Brotherhood (Brotherhood) and the newly-established Islamic Action Front Party (IAF). In a two-hour lecture held Saturday at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, the guest speaker, IAF secretary, Ishaq Farhan, refuted accusations and shed light on his party's real objectives.

"The Islamic Action Front is not a substitute for the Muslim Brotherhood," Dr. Farhan said. "It is a political party that saw light on the 8th of December last year and heads towards political action rather than concentrating on charitable activities and educating generations based on Islamic teachings and principles as it is the case in the Muslim Brotherhood."

In what they claim as the failure of the Muslim Brotherhood to achieve its desired objectives, some lecture participants fired criticism at the Brotherhood, blaming it of inefficiency in assuming its responsibilities throughout its 64 years of existence.

"Is the establishment of the IAF a simple declaration of the



Ishaq Farhan

Brotherhood's failure or is it simply an adaptation to what is really going on in the Jordanian political arena?" one participant asked.

Dr. Farhan told participants that Islamic action is not only confined to the establishment of the Islamic state (caliphate). It has, he said, other main objectives among which is Islamic education and spreading the Islamic call among the people.

"The Brotherhood has succeeded in raising awareness among the public of the message of Islam," he stated. "While mosques are nowadays flooded with people praying and hijab (the Islamic veil) has become an ordinary feature of Muslim women; these aspects were considered a rare phenomena in the

past," he added. One participant questioned if women wearing veils and incidents of killing tourists in Egypt can be considered positive features of Islamic renaissance.

"The West is very well aware of an Islamic renaissance," Dr. Farhan answered back.

During the lecture, Dr. Farhan explained that one of the main challenges facing the IAF is an interior one; that is, the difficulty of members to get accustomed to political action. He emphasised that one of the important things members ought to deal with is their adaptation to the principles of democracy and accepting its consequences.

A member of the Islamic Liberation Party charged the IAF with being a state party rather than a people's party.

Dr. Farhan refuted the accusation saying that the IAF's main goal is not to oppose the government on every action it takes.

"We do approve certain actions adopted by the government but that does not mean that we are following in its footsteps," he said. "We oppose, for instance, the peace process and demand the withdrawal of Arab delegations, a stand that is totally contrary to that of the government."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF



Regent visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, Sunday visited the Prime Ministry where he had a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The meeting dwelt on several domestic issues.

Queen joins Arbor Day celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will Thursday take part in planting forest tree saplings in an area near Amman-Yajouz road as part of a tree planting ceremony organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. The ceremony, which is held as part of Jordan's celebrations of Arbor Day, is part of a scheme aimed at greening Jordan by the year 2000. The area which will be planted Thursday will be called the Queen Noor Forest.

Abu Jaber meets Japanese team

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Sunday received members of the Japanese-Parliament's investigation committee, which is in charge of investigating international disputes. Dr. Abu Jaber briefed them on Jordan's stand towards the peace process and stressed the Kingdom's adherence to the firm principles which serve as a basis for the peace process.

Lower House committee discusses laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's judiciary committee met Sunday under its chairman Salim Al Zu'bi and discussed the youth welfare draft law. Deputy Zu'bi said four articles of the law were so far approved by the committee which will resume its discussion of the law next Saturday. The committee has also approved three articles of an amendment to the municipalities law, he said. Mr. Zu'bi said the committee was debating the issue of the independence of the three authorities and the powers of the Lower House's committees. This issue was highlighted in the House's meeting last week when Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh complained of a visit by the House's agriculture committee to several of his ministry's departments. The deputies voted to refer the issue to the judiciary committee to decide on it.

YWCA urges support for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) Sunday called on the world YWCA in 84 countries to join forces in support of the 415 Palestinians expelled a month ago to South Lebanon. In an appeal sent out by the YWCA in Amman, the YWCA called on all non-governmental organisations and YWCA all over the world to pressure Israel into returning the expelled to their homeland. The appeal said the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland constituted a flagrant violation of human rights charters.

ILO team arrives Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — A fact-finding team representing the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will arrive in Amman Friday on a four-day visit to Jordan. The team will meet with Jordanian officials in order to be familiarised with Israel's repressive practices against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In its meeting with Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, the team will discuss a report prepared by Jordan on Israeli malpractices against Arab labourers.

Amendments sought to customs law

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint committee from the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Amman Chamber of Industry Sunday discussed the proposed sales tax which is now being examined by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Customs Department. The committee agreed to prepare a memorandum to the minister of finance/customs requesting him to make some amendments to the customs law.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

★ French film entitled "La Femme d'arrete" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

DIALOGUE

★ Dialogue, in Arabic, with the secretary general of the Jordanian National Alliance at the Islamic Action Research and Studies Centre — 5:30 p.m.

JD 1m project goes to JESORS

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) Sunday won a contract from the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) to conduct an urban development project in the city of Aqaba.

Under the terms of the agreement JESORS will redevelop an estimated 125,000 square metres on which shopping centres and residential areas now stand, at a cost of JD 1 million. JESORS engineers will demolish and reconstruct housing units, and lay asphalt roads of 17,500 square metres for pedestrians and motorists.

The renovation will include a water network of 8,000 metres, sewerage system of 6,495 metres, and a 5,460 metres canal to drain waste water.

JESORS will also install a power telephone network; build retaining walls, public garden and other facilities under the agreement which will be implemented within 14 months, according to Department Director Yousef Hiyasat.

Mr. Hiyasat who signed the deal with the JESORS director said the project, the third of its kind in the port city, was designed to develop the old quarters of Aqaba.

JESORS prepared the plans and the blueprints for the project, and the infrastructure for social centres and schools, said Mr. Hiyasat. He said this is the third project to be executed by the department after the Shallaleh and Salahuddin development schemes also carried out in Aqaba.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the department plans to embark on a fourth project in the north of the old city during the coming three months, and a tender for the project has already been announced.

The department was concerned over the implementation of housing schemes benefiting limited income groups, Mr. Hiyasat said. He added that to date, the department has built 30,000 housing units in 110 housing projects costing more than JD 250 million in various parts of Jordan.

Temperatures to drop below 0°C

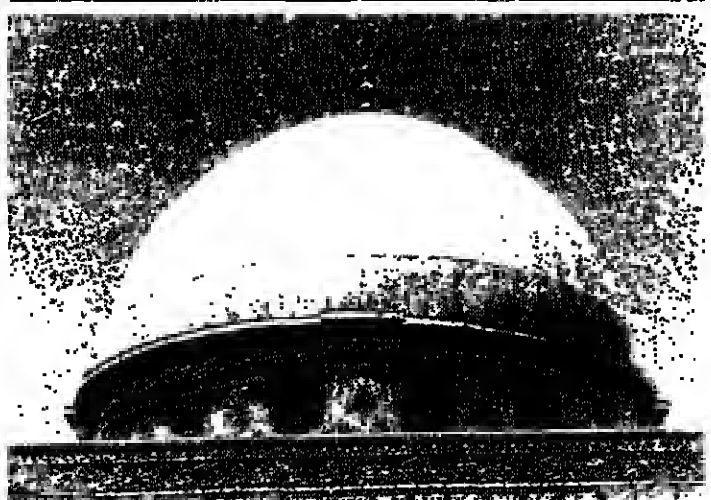
AMMAN (J.T.) — The dry and cold spell that has affected Jordan recently is expected to continue over the next few days. The Department of Meteorology said temperatures will drop to -2°C at night, rising to about 9°C in the coming days during which no rain is forecast.

Department official Jamal Al Mousa told the Jordan Times the cold weather was caused by a high depression centered over eastern Turkey which is responsible for the bitterly cold winds from the east.

The cold weather causes a sharp decline in temperatures below the annual average and is causing water surfaces and spring water to freeze, said Mr. Mousa. He said the minimum temperatures in the desert regions will be -4°C, rising during the day to 10°C.

The department registered -10°C in Rweishad near the Iraqi-Jordanian border Saturday evening, while -11°C was registered at Ma'an, -7°C in Shobak -7°C at the Queen Alla International Airport -8°C at Jafer.

Mr. Mousa said no change in the weather condition was expected in the coming few days and no significant change is forecast later on.



The Dome of the Rock

Holy sites repairs continue

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee in charge of the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Sunday discussed technical reports about methods of gold-plating the dome, and the type of wood used in its restoration.

The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf Izzudin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, also examined a report about the fire early warning system, proposed by the Civil Defence Departments.

The committee endorsed the report and decided to send it to the resident engineer's office in Jerusalem.

The committee also decided to increase the technical support staff in Jerusalem. The restoration and gold-plating process, which started on July 20, 1992 will take 540 days, according to the committee chairman Sheikh Izzuddin.

Meanwhile the Royal Commission for the Restoration of Mosques and Holy Sites in Jordan met Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat.

Settlements

(Continued from page 1)
occupied territories while in Israel the road situation worsened.

"Continuation of construction at this time is an obstacle to the peace talks in Washington and it raises tension and violence in the (occupied) territories," the statement said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin came to power in July vowing to curb the settlements which the United States insisted were an obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace talks launched in October 1991.

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in modern standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on January 30, 1993, and will last for 16 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. Evening classes meet three days a week: Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration. (Registration begins on Saturday 23.1.1993)

Jordan to exhibit produce in Berlin

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will again display samples of its agricultural products at International Green Week Berlin 1993, a fair which will open in the German city on January 22.

Forty-five countries are to take part in the fair, displaying produce from the five continents; according to officials at the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture which is arranging Jordan's participation.

The AMO said that apart from officials, Jordan will be represented by five businessmen from the private sector who will exhibit samples of Jordanian vegetables, fruits and flowers, as well as citrus fruits grown in the Jordan Valley.

In participating in the annual fair, Jordan hopes to attract buyers for its agriculture produce, particularly since Jordan is attempting to market its products in Europe, said AMO officials Sunday. They said only a limited number of European countries are currently buying Jordanian agricultural products and the display of Jordanian produce was bound to attract importers and consumers.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the German Agency for Technical Development (GTZ) along with the Jordanian government are financing Jordan's attendance at the fair this year, said the officials.

A press release from the Berlin Fair Centre said several seminars on topics such as development of facilities and the prospects for "leisure industries" in the country, as well as "farm holidays", will be held at the fair. Visitors to Green Week will have an opportunity to participate in discussions, watch demonstrations and view livestock display.

Jordan traditionally exports its agricultural crops to the Gulf states, but AMO Director Saleem Lawzi said at the start of the



Eggplants for export...

agricultural season in November the Kingdom stands a good chance of marketing its produce to Europe especially during the winter. Dr. Lawzi had earlier

toured several eastern European countries including Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, where he said importers expressed interest in buying Jordanian produce.

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Businessman denies role in scam

(Continued from page 1)

one-paragraph answer to the Judiciary Committee at the House of Representatives, which was obtained by the Jordan Times, say that "prosecutors involved in the case—who are all career professionals—agreed that the evidence available at the time of the indictment was not sufficient to support criminal charges against Dajani," the Aug. 1992 report added.

In the 190-page preliminary investigation report by the independent counsel, the investigators say that the prosecutors' decision not to indict Mr. Dajani was supported by the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office, which "agree that at the time, they had insufficient evidence to indict him on a 'BNL as victim' theory."

Mr. Dajani's Amman Resources—a commodity trading, shipping and terminalizing agents company—became the main handlers for Iraqi-bound wheat and rice through Aqaba in 1984 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war when Iraq's ports in the Gulf were blocked. Mr. Dajani, who is married to an American, was living in Washington at the time.

According to Mr. Dajani, attention focused on him after his company solved a recurring problem faced by the Iraqis in transporting three million tonnes of commodities—one million each—from the U.S., Canada and Australia to Iraq. Shipments of grain were transported by small vessels with 25,000-tonne capacity and waited at the ports until they were offloaded.

To solve the problem, Mr. Dajani's company maintained a 75,000-tonne ship, the Tanga, as a floating silo in Aqaba. The ship was equipped with vacuum hoses which would empty the grain into a fleet of 1,700 Jordanian and Iraqi trucks which would carry the grain to Iraq.

"This amounted to tremendous savings for Iraq," which, according to Mr. Dajani, was paying \$100 million in demurrage because of congestion in the ports of Iskandaron (Turkey), Aqaba and Kuwait. "The cost of shipping was reduced to a third."

"We were providing an immaculate service for transporting wheat and rice not only from America to Iraq but also from Canada and Australia," he said adding that it was the success of this operation which

brought attention to his person and company.

"The bulk of two items, wheat and rice, created the need for major shipping and that is when we came in," Mr. Dajani said. At that time a specialised team of the Central Bank of Iraq and Rafidain Bank were asking for quotations from American banks on the agricultural credits to Iraq. "And the banking community sought to finance Iraqi purchases because it was guaranteed by the U.S. government."

BNL-Atlanta, according to Mr. Dajani, had slightly lower rates and "that is why it covered the largest percentage of Iraqi financing." Mr. Dajani was introduced to BNL management by the Iraqis and "we consequently became good friends."

It was his friendship with BNL-Atlanta manager Drogoul which caused him negative press coverage, he says.

After Mr. Drogoul was fired from the bank in 1989, Mr. Dajani signed him on as a consultant with a three-year contract.

According to the Wall Street Journal's report, Mr. Dajani asked Mr. Drogoul to "report every six weeks... on moves made by the Atlanta investigators," but Mr. Dajani, while conceding that he did employ Mr. Drogoul after he was fired, said that his task was totally different. "He did massive amount of work in financing commodity trading for the Far East," Mr. Dajani said adding that Mr. Drogoul's services have since been terminated because "he has not been able to function because of his non-availability."

Mr. Dajani was also quick to point out that he checked the legality of his appointment of Mr. Drogoul with an Atlanta legal council office before he offered him a job. "They said

there was no problem."

Mr. Drogoul, who initially pleaded guilty to fraud charges and is facing a possible jail term of more than 300 years, retained a new lawyer in August of last year. The new attorney successfully moved to change Mr. Drogoul's guilty plea, according to the Wall Street Journal's report. His case will be heard in court in April.

Mr. Dajani summed up his role in the affair as attempting to "bridge understanding between Iraq and the U.S. on the subject of trade development."

"There was a convergence of interest between the two countries and since Iraq was a closed society, I, as a businessman, recognised this convergence and operated with the full knowledge and coordination of both countries," he said.

Evictees

(Continued from page 1)

Some holding copies of the Koran above their heads, the 413 men marched in silence Sunday about one kilometre to a rocky hilltop overlooking Israel's self-declared "security zone."

They sat down to the road and prayed while Israel's militia allies brought in reinforcements and Israeli troops stood ready with firehoses to force them back from Zembraya crossing point.

"The U.N. Security Council should be ashamed of itself," Dr. Rantisi told the men. "How can it implement resolutions on Iraq but silently watch Israeli terrorism?"

The Palestinians stopped about 400 metres from the nearest tanks of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which moved up 100 metres during the march until they were 600 metres north of the crossing.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Special Issue No. 1



Drawing of Jan. 17, 1993

Winning Tickets

| | |
|--|---|
| Holder of ticket No. 16849 B Wins JD 50,000 | Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 5,000 each wins JD 500 16840 16859 16949 17849 26849 16848 16839 16749 15849 06849 |
| Holder of ticket No. 16849 A Wins JD 15,000 | Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 3,500 each wins JD 350 16840 16859 16949 17849 26849 16848 16839 16749 15849 06849 |
| Holder of ticket No. 89005 (A+B) Wins JD 7,000 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 5,000 each wins JD 250 89004 89015 89105 89005 99005 89004 89095 89905 88005 79005 |
| Holder of ticket No. 17832 (A+B) Wins JD 5,000 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 4,000 each wins JD 200 17833 17842 17932 18832 27832 17831 17822 17732 16832 07832 |
| Holder of ticket No. 08275 (A+B) Wins JD 4,500 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 3,000 each wins JD 150 08274 08285 08375 09275 18275 08274 08265 08175 07275 98275 |
| Holder of ticket No. 57375 (A+B) Wins JD 3,500 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 2,000 each wins JD 100 57376 57385 57475 58375 67375 57374 57365 57275 56375 47375 |
| Holder of ticket No. 21318 (A+B) Wins JD 3,000 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 1,600 each wins JD 80 21319 21328 21418 22318 31318 21317 21308 21218 20318 11318 |
| Holder of ticket No. 04583 (A+B) Wins JD 2,500 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 1,400 each wins JD 70 04584 04593 04683 05583 14583 04582 04573 04483 03583 94583 |
| Holder of ticket No. 07549 (A+B) Wins JD 2,000 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each wins JD 50 07540 07559 07649 08549 17549 07548 07539 07449 06549 97549 |
| Holder of ticket No. 12454 (A+B) Wins JD 1,500 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 800 each wins JD 40 12455 12464 12554 13454 22454 12453 12444 12354 11454 02454 |
| Holder of ticket No. 67287 (A+B) Wins JD 1,000 | Twenty consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 30 67288 67297 67387 68287 77287 67286 67277 67187 66287 57287 |

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Ticket numbers | 75171 (A+B) | Win JD 600 each |
| Ticket numbers | 39220 (A+B) | Win JD 450 each |

TICKETS ENDING WITH

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 8339 (A+B) | Win JD 100 each | 574 (A+B) | Win JD 40 each |
| 64 (A+B) | Win JD 6 each | | |
| 10,000 ticket ending with | 2 (A+B) | Win JD 3 each | |

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| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 100 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in | 039 312 534 475 646 (A+B) | Win JD 30 |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|

Winners of the grand prizes in the special issue number 24 of Jan. 2, 1993

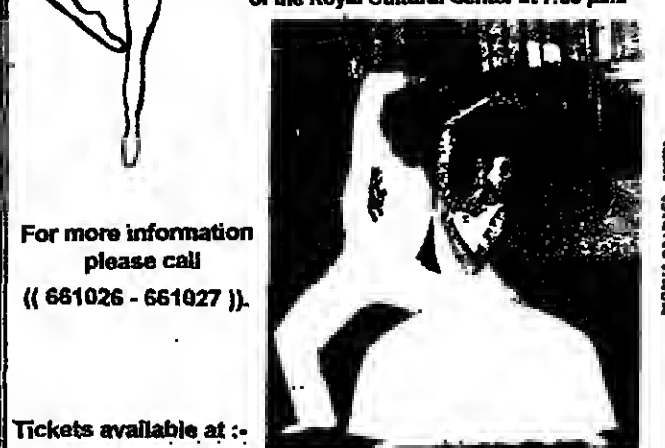
| | | | | | | | | | |
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RACJ sets 12 events for upcoming auto sports season

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) has announced the schedule for the upcoming season with 12 events that are bound to keep auto sports competitors and fans busy and active all year long.

Unlike the 1992 season, which featured only nine events, RACJ's Motor Sports Committee has lined up four autotests, three national rallies, three rallytours, in addition to the ever-popular Rumman Hill Climb and the Jordan International Rally to make up the rounds that qualify for the Jordan Drivers' Open Championship of 1993.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, RACJ Director Derek Ledger voiced his optimism over the motor sports scene in the Kingdom and said that local drivers are expected to do much better in the future.

"The 1992 season was very encouraging and everything went according to plan. However we have a more ambitious agenda for 1993," he said. "There are more events this season, organised to suit all tastes and cater for the interests of competitors in all types of motor sports."

"There's a growing interest in motor sports, and many drivers are buying better and stronger cars which will improve their chances of competing for advanced standings. This is a very encouraging sign," added Ledger.

In the upcoming season, only results of all kinds of rallies held in Jordan will be entered in the Drivers' Open Championship standings so as to give an equal chance for all competitors. And in order to give drivers an incentive to compete seriously in national and international rallies only group A and N (homologated) cars will get full points for their participation while group S cars will only get half the points.

Over 350 competitors took part in various rallies organised by RACJ last year.

Marwan Abu Hamad won the Driver Open Championship of 1992 with 200 points in the overall standings. Reimon Fleifel came in second with 149 points, while Mahmoud Komok finished third with 146.5 points. Majdi Al Jallad finished fourth.

In the co-drivers championship Khaled Zakaria won first place, Sameh Al Jallad came in second and Raed Wakileh finished third.

Ledger, who is the Middle East representative in the (International Federation of Auto Sports) FISA International Rally Commission, said the RACJ hopes the Jordan International Rally — the biggest



Marwan Abu Hamad in his Toyota Celica GT at the Rumman Hill Climb



Majdi Al Jallad



Mahmoud Komok captured third place after he won the National Rally in November

and most prestigious of RACJ's auto sports events — will be successful ever.

"There will be three international stewards from Germany, Cyprus and Sweden, and the chief scrutineer will come from England," said Ledger. "A top FISA official will also be here."

The RACJ announced the 1993 auto sports schedule as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Classix Autotests | Feb.12 | Classix Autotests | Aug.6 |
| Lebanon National Rally | Apr.22 | Peppi Rumman Hill Climb | Aug.28 |
| Classix Autotests | May.7 | Rallytour | Sept.24 |
| Jordan International Rally | May.27-28 | Classix Autotests | Oct.15 |
| Forum Furniture Rallytour | June.11 | National Rally | Nov.26 |
| Danish Dairy National Rally | July.16 | VIP Hotline Rallytour | Dec.17 |

Capriati cruises to NSW Open title

SYDNEY (AP) — Fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati of the United States outgunned No. 5 Anke Huber of Germany 6-1, 6-4 Sunday to win the New South Wales Open tennis tournament.

It was the second American victory in two days at this \$370,000 warmup for next week's Australian Open. Top-seeded Pete Sampras downed No. 7 Thomas Muster of Austria for the men's title Saturday.

The women's final matched a pair of teenagers who are among the hardest hitters on the tour. Capriati was the steadier of the two in the sweltering heat at the White City complex near downtown Sydney.

It was definitely very hot, but coming from Florida, I was used to it," she said.

Capriati, who bypassed the New South Wales tournament last year, said her from going into the Australian Open was the best it had ever been before a Grand Slam.

"I've never won a tournament before a Grand Slam. I feel like I'm playing better (than last year)," Capriati said.

Huber looked nervous early, and Capriati was quick to capitalize. She broke Huber in the first game and kept up the pressure throughout the first set, allowing the German to hold serve only once.

She broke Huber for the match when the 18-year-old German hit

a backhand that sailed just long. "She played a very good match and she deserved to win," Huber said. "I didn't play too good today."

Huber ended up with 39 unforced errors to 28 for Capriati. She also had four double faults, while Capriati blasted four aces.

It was the sixth career title for the 16-year-old Capriati, including the Olympic gold medal in Barcelona.

Ivanisevic withdraws from Australian Open

Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, the fifth seed in the men's singles, has withdrawn from the Australian Open tennis championships, organisers announced Sunday. Ivanisevic has a stress fracture in his right foot and has been advised to rest for five to six weeks, officials said in a statement. Ivanisevic was drawn to play Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands in the first round of the tournament, which starts Monday. His place against Haarhuis will be taken by Austrian Thomas Muster, the highest-ranked unseeded player in the draw. Ivanisevic's withdrawal means the tournament will be without both of last year's Wimbledon finalists. Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi of the United States withdrew earlier in the week, saying he had bronchitis. Agassi withdrew before the draw was made.

Final standings in the European Figure Skating Championships

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — The medal winners of the 1993 European Figure Skating Championships, Jan. 10-17 at the Helsinki Ice Hall. The 1994 European Championships are Jan. 18-23 in Copenhagen, Denmark:

| | |
|------------|--|
| Men: | Dmitri Dmitrenko, Ukraine |
| Silver: | Philippe Candeloro, France |
| Bronze: | Eric Millot, France |
| Women: | Surya Bonaly, France |
| Silver: | Oksana Baiul, Ukraine |
| Bronze: | Marina Kielmann, Germany |
| Pairs: | Marina Eltsova and Andrei Bushkov, Russia |
| Silver: | Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer, Germany |
| Bronze: | Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov, Russia |
| Ice dance: | Maia Urova and Aleksandr Zhulin, Russia |
| Silver: | Oksana Grischuk and Evgeni Platov, Russia |
| Bronze: | Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, Finland |



French driver Bruno Saby (right) and compatriot Stephane Petrucci congratulate each other shortly after the arrival in Nouakchott, Mauritania. Both men captured first position in the overall standings of the Paris-Dakar Rally. Petrucci captured his third straight motorcycle title (AFP photo)

Humiliating defeats signal end of Liverpool era

LONDON (R) — Liverpool's world has come crashing down around them in a disastrous four days, signalling the end of a great era for the club and English soccer.

The team whose name has been synonymous with success for three decades looks almost certain not to qualify for European competition at the end of this season for the first time since 1964.

Out of both domestic cups, the 1992 F.A. Cup winner are closer to the relegation zone than finishing high enough in the Premier League to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

Bookmakers' odds against Liverpool dropping into the first division were shortened from 10-1 to 8-1 after their 2-0 defeat at

Wimbledon Saturday. Liverpool remained in 12th place, only eight points ahead of bottom club Nottingham Forest and 13 adrift of leaders Norwich.

The defeat followed Liverpool's humiliating exit from the F.A. Cup Wednesday at the hands of second division Bolton.

Troubled manager Graeme Souness, midfield general in four Liverpool championship-winning sides in the late 1970s and early 80s, refused to talk to reporters after the latest setback.

He said after the midweek cup disaster that he was disappointed with the commitment of some of his players, demanding greater passion.

"It's my job to try to motivate players and bring them back to levels where they can win

games," he said. Souness has spent 13 million pounds sterling (\$20 million) on new players, while offloading a number of internationals who are in good form at other clubs, notably Welsh striker Dean Saunders and Irishmen Ray Houghton and Steve Staunton at title-chasing Aston Villa.

City neighbours Everton, who won the League title twice during the 1980s, have been faring no better, although they beat champions Leeds 2-0 at home to pull level with Liverpool on points.

Klinsmann takes Monaco clear at top

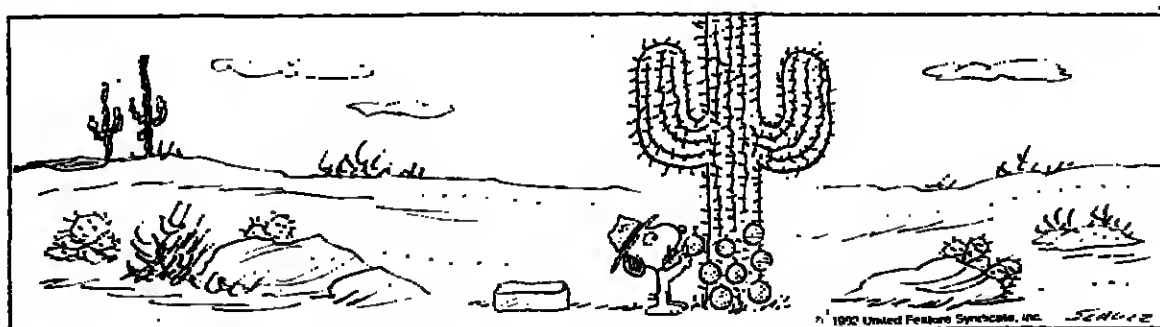
German striker Jurgen Klinsmann grabbed his

fifth goal in a week to take Monaco clear at the top of the French League Saturday. Klinsmann, four-goal hero against Auxerre last week, struck the only goal of the game in the 35th minute of the visit to lowly Nimes, taking Monaco a point ahead of Nantes.

Auxerre, unbeaten at home in more than two years, were given a fright by the youthful Nantes side who took the lead through a header from striker Nicolas Ouedec in the 29th minute of the League's match of the day.

But defender William Frunier equalised, also with his head, in the 63rd minute to keep Auxerre in the title hunt.

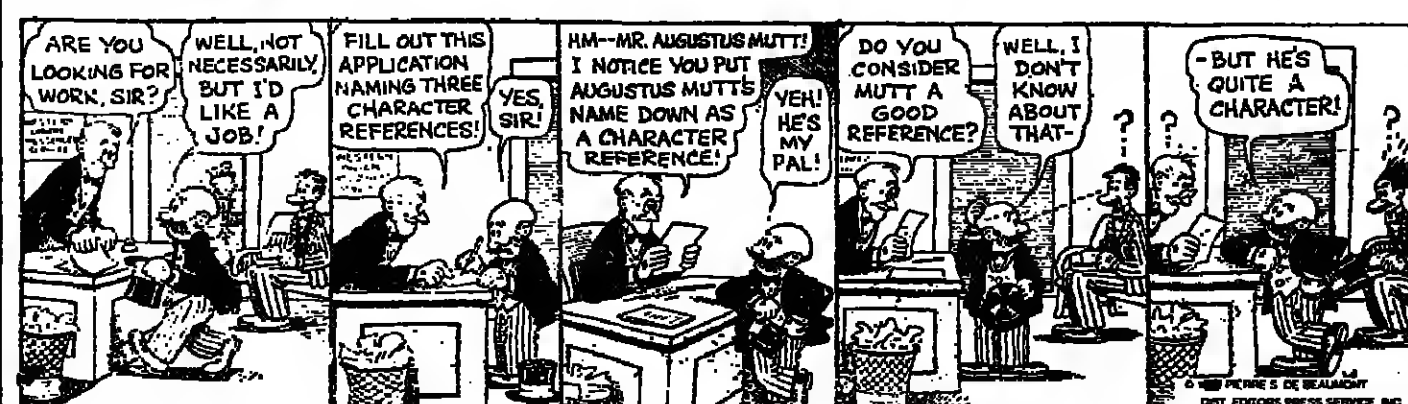
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 18, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Jupiter's trine to the Sagittarius moon today can make an office job a real challenge when the urge to play is so compelling. Try keeping coffee-break chat to a low roar. The evening is excellent.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take time out to get views of good friends for gaining goals that mean a great deal to you and later make sure you do not expect favours to be handed to you on a silver platter.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Private concerns should give way early to whatever outside matters require your attention but later a secret worry needs to be carefully eliminated.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) New acquaintances can show you the way to more satisfactory pleasures so contact them in the morning but later do nothing to upset your loved one.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A worldly minded person has the answer for solving an unusual condition upsetting you while tonight don't commit yourself to new obligations.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A new understanding with a talented associate who things differently from you is now in the works while later stick to proven outlets, solve issues.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever new interests tempt

you are good in the morning so look into them but tonight be sure to do tasks so not criticism can come your way.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Conditions come into the open with a charmer so go along with this person even though later in the day you need to use care in expenditures.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your own family members have excellent ideas for improving your activities or even starting new ventures for you but later, have a change of pace.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The morning brings you good ideas for getting out invitations or communications that are pleasant to congenial companions while later avoid financial discussions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Arrange home affairs so they are as you want them as some new aspect and do so quickly as later you find you have personal problems to solve.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get outsiders more aware of your personal desires and accept their assistance in gaining them; sidestep a worrisome problem arising tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put your attention now upon your money and other practical affairs and you can increase assets while later an older person can hold you back if you permit.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

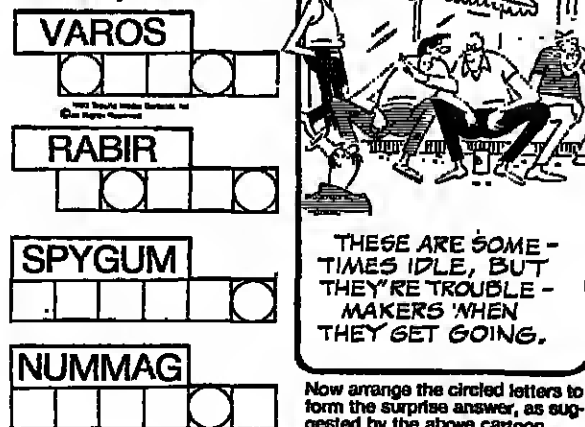


"You remind me of my mother. She was a woman, too!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

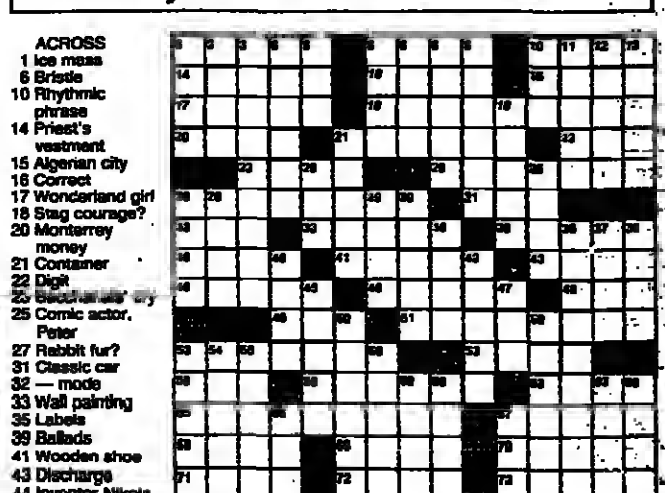
Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: TESTY HURRY COLUMN KINDLY

Answer: What ducks try to do—DUCK HUNTERS

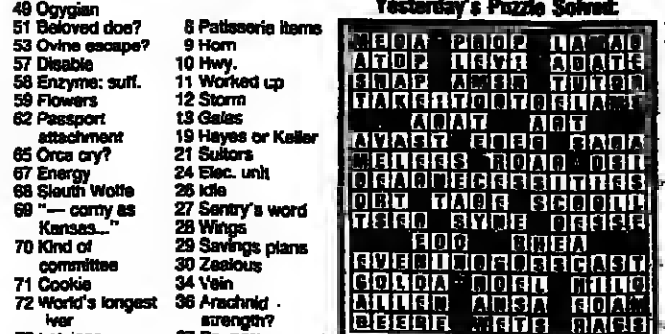
THE Daily Crossword

by David J. Pestan



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvent:



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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold.
*Q10432 KQ32 J1087*Void
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
A.—You have no idea where this hand should play, so a bid of three spades won't allow for sensible exploration. Start with three clubs, to check on whether partner has four cards in either major suit.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold.
*Q10432 KQ32 J1087*Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3+ Pass
3 NT Pass 3+ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner has denied a four-card major, but he must still have three spades. With three-card support, partner will either raise or cue-bid, depending on how good the North hand is.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold.
*Q10432 KQ32 J1087*Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3+ Pass
3 NT Pass 3+ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—Despite the failure to locate a major-suit fit, you are worth one last try. If partner has four diamonds and not too many wasted values in clubs, there might still be slam in the hand. Bid four diamonds.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold.
*Q10432 KQ32 J1087*Void
The bidding has proceeded:

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold.
*Q10432 KQ32 J1087*Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3+ Pass
3 NT Pass 3+ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—You have asked partner to evaluate his hand for slam, and a verdict has been rendered. Respect North's decision and pass. Partner probably has too much in clubs to think there can be reasonable play for 12 tricks.

Kuwait assembly backs public fund protection law

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti parliament Saturday gave preliminary approval to a law aimed at protecting public money following massive losses from the collapse of the emirate's investments in Spain, a senior parliamentarian said.

Hamed Al Jounaidi, head of the assembly's legislative committee, said the proposed law provides for parliamentary monitoring of state investments for the first time.

Sheikh Jounaidi said he expected final parliamentary approval Tuesday during second review of the measure and the law would probably take effect about 10 days after that.

"The law means that the national assembly will be informed on a regular basis about the investments of the Kuwaiti government," he told Reuters.

"That will keep things, we hope, in better order," he elaborated.

Sheikh Jounaidi said the law raised the maximum sentence for misuse of public funds to life imprisonment from 10 years and the minimum penalty for the offence to five years from a fine.

"The law reflects the feeling of the Kuwaiti people. They support a law that gives more confidence to Kuwaiti investments," he said.

Grupo Torras, the Spanish unit of the London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), announced it was going into receivership last month, citing \$14 billion in losses.

KIO is part of a branch of the government which manages a worldwide investment portfolio

meant to sustain future generations of Kuwaitis when the country's oil runs out.

Lawyers representing Grupo Torras filed a lawsuit in a Madrid court this month against former Grupo Torras managers for alleged irregularities.

Islamic fundamentalist parliamentarians have suggested strict punishments such as chopping off the hand of anyone found guilty of embezzling state funds.

No such measure is included in the law. Islamic Affairs Minister Juma Al Azmi said Saturday such strict punishment was appropriate for thieves. Embezzlers ought to be jailed instead,

the official Kuwait News Agency quoted him as saying.

The new law requires the state and companies in which the state at least a 25 per cent stake to report investment moves to the government's auditing authorities, in some cases within 10 days of carrying out the transaction.

The audit authorities would not have the power to block investments but every six months it would be required to report on the state's investment activities to the assembly.

Any person proved deliberately to have delayed a report of an investment activity to the audit authorities would be liable to prosecution, Sheikh Jounaidi said.

Moroccan phosphate group plans major expansion

RABAT (R) — Morocco's billion-dollar phosphate industry is gearing up for a major expansion to satisfy an eventual increase in world demand for fertilisers.

King Hassan of Morocco has said farmers all over the world will eventually have to use fertilisers, especially phosphates, to meet the food needs of an increasing population.

Morocco has 75 per cent of the world's known phosphate reserves. The mainstay of the Moroccan economy, exports of raw rock and by-products are currently worth just over one billion dollars a year.

Energy and Mines Minister Driss Alaoui M'Daghri told a news conference in January that the state-owned Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP) would invest more than \$1 billion to expand its production capacity in the next four years.

The OCP's strategy is to switch from exporting raw rock to processing it at home by converting it into phosphoric acid and fertilisers.

Its present capacity is 30 million tonnes of rock a year from four open-cut mines. In the mid-1980s exports peaked at 20 million tonnes.

But because of the change in emphasis, coupled with a drop in

demand due to recession, rock exports to 36 countries were down to nine million tonnes last year and will be about the same this year.

The OCP forecasts output this year at 22.9 million tonnes, more than half processed locally to make phosphoric acid and fertilisers for export, mainly to Europe and Asia.

In its latest annual report, the OCP said work would start this year on building two more phosphoric acid plants costing \$1.27 billion, bringing the total to seven.

A spokesman said invitations for tenders to build the plants would be launched soon. Previous plants were built by a consortium of Mitsui of Japan and Focox of Spain.

The two plants will be at Jorf Lasfar, a new Atlantic harbour south of Casablanca, and will be able to produce 2,000 tonnes of acid a day starting in late 1995, rising to 4,000 tonnes when the project is completed.

By then it is estimated it will be possible to produce three million tonnes of acid, the main ingredient needed to make fertilisers.

The acid plants pour effluent into the Atlantic Ocean but officials say they are designed to prevent damage to the marine environment in what is one of the

world's richest fishing grounds for sardines, tuna and squid.

To reduce the environmental damage from the phosphate industry, the European Community is financing a \$1.32-million project to extract toxic cadmium from phosphoric acid at a pilot plant at the OCP's research centre in Casablanca.

The project is designed to demonstrate the feasibility of eliminating cadmium, a poisonous metal used to make paints and for plating metals, for the benefit of Morocco and other phosphate producers like Algeria, Jordan and Tunisia.

To replace workings that are near exhaustion, two new mines will be opened up, at Sidi Chenane in 1994, and at Ben Guerir this year. Together they will produce 15.2 million tonnes a year by 1995.

The OCP says the outlook is for fierce competition on the world market. Its report says there has been a "brutal slump" in sales to eastern Europe because of financial difficulties and the abolition of farming subsidies there.

"The immediate future depends on an end to recession worldwide, but in the long term Morocco will be ideally placed to keep a major share of the market," one analyst said.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 11-January 15, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar retreated in a technical correction during most of last week, but was boosted just before the weekend on rumours of imminent interest rate cuts in Germany and other EMS countries. The U.S. unit ended the week 0.7 per cent lower against the mark, and 0.4 per cent lower against the Swiss franc. Against the yen, the dollar ended 0.5 per cent higher.

The dollar retreated in a technical correction Monday, ending the day well below Friday's levels. Observers noted that traders took profit on their accumulated long dollar positions when the tension passed without a confrontation in the Gulf, and news came that Iraq had withdrawn from the "no-fly" zone. Observers added that the fact that December's U.S. employment results, that were released just before the weekend, were below expectations, was a further impetus for a correction.

Trading remained range bound Tuesday, as market participants awaited in anticipation news of developments in the Gulf, and the release of a new set of U.S. economic data.

The U.S. currency dropped again Wednesday, due to a further round of long-position liquidation, despite the raid on Iraq by the Western allies. Market commentators said that the fact that the attack was swift and ended in a matter of hours meant that market focus was back on economic fundamentals, rather than on safe-haven considerations. The dollar ended the day at its lowest level of the week at 1.6220 marks.

While the dollar traded in a narrow range Thursday, it rallied, however, after New York opened Friday, on speculation of a concerted European interest rate cut, that could materialize as early as this weekend.

Although some traders were sceptical about the timing, the majority, nevertheless, preferred to cover their short dollar positions ahead of the weekend, particularly as many banks will be closed in the U.S. Monday.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

| Currency | 8/1/93 Close | 15/1/93 Close | Percent Change |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.5515 | 1.5312 | (0.02)% |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.6475 | 1.6355 | 0.73% |
| Swiss Franc | 1.5025 | 1.4970 | 0.37% |
| French Franc | 5.6050 | 5.5290 | 1.38% |
| Japanese Yen | 125.39 | 126.05 | (0.52)% |

LSD Per STD

Interbank bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

| Currency | 8/1/93 1-Month (%) | 15/1/93 1-Month (%) | 15/1/93 1-Year (%) | 15/1/93 1-Year (%) |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| U.S. Dollar | 3.10 | 4.00 | 2.93 | 3.56 |
| Sterling Pound | 7.10 | 6.68 | 7.00 | 6.56 |
| Deutsche Mark | 8.48 | 7.37 | 8.50 | 7.38 |
| Swiss Franc | 5.43 | 5.00 | 5.50 | 5.18 |
| French Franc | 11.25 | 9.37 | 11.75 | 9.25 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.81 | 3.46 | 3.81 | 3.43 |

Interbank bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.688 | 0.690 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0657 | 1.0710 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4242 | 0.4263 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4631 | 0.4654 |
| French Franc | 0.1251 | 0.1257 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.5470 | 0.5497 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.3772 | 0.3791 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.0934 | 0.0939 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0458 | 0.0460 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.02045 | 0.02055 |

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Taiwan cuts stock tax to revive slumping market

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's parliament cut the stock trading tax Saturday to revive the slumping share market, which fell 27 per cent last year because of political tensions, stock scandals and an economic slowdown.

Parliament voted to slash the tax levied on the selling price of each stock transaction to 0.3 per cent from 0.6 per cent. The measure was expected to take effect by next month.

The ruling Nationalist Party's parliamentary whip, Wang Chin-Feng, said earlier the stock slump could hurt the economy and delay in cutting the tax was a reason for the Nationalists' poor performance in last December's general elections.

Parliament's decision demonstrated its growing control over economic policy after recent democratic reforms. The finance ministry initially opposed the tax cut on the grounds it would encourage excessive speculation.

Under pressure from parliament, the ministry later said it would consider a cut if a securities capital gains tax, abolished in 1990, was reintroduced at the same time.

Parliament voted Saturday to ask the ministry to submit a proposal to restore a capital gains tax within one year, but it did not commit itself to passing the proposal and asked the ministry to consider further cuts in the transaction tax.

The stock market climbed Saturday, with the weighted index rising 47.69 points or 1.4 per cent to 3,362.52. It has gained six per cent in the past five days in reaction to the expected tax cut.

Brokers agreed the cut would help to draw some disillusioned investors back into the market. A rise in the tax to 0.6 per cent from 0.15 per cent in January 1990 was blamed for helping to trigger a market crash that year.

But they said domestic political tensions would have to ease before the market could decisively reverse its long-term downturn.

A post-election cabinet reshuffle, in which Premier Hsu Fu-Tsun may be replaced, is expected next month.

"The tax cut is helping the market in the short term, but the long-term outlook depends on whether the cabinet reshuffle goes smoothly," Allan Huang of National Securities said.

Despite the stock market's slump which caused a privatisation attempt this month to fail,

Taiwan will press ahead with plans to privatise state firms.

"No matter what the condition of the stock market is this year, we will plan for real privatisation state companies," newspapers quoted Economic Minister Vincent Siew as saying Saturday.

The government still aims to transfer Ben Engineering Corp., China Petrochemical Development Corp and Taiwan Machinery Manufacturing Corp into majority private ownership by the end of this fiscal year in June, he said.

However, the government may use methods such as auctioning stakes and selling off companies' assets separately if the stock market's weakness makes public offers of shares at fixed prices impossible, Mr. Siew said.

Taiwan's expected membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will make privatising state firms imperative, he said. GATT began formally considering the island's application to join last September.

The government launched an ambitious scheme in 1989 to raise about \$20 billion by privatising 22 firms, including industrial giants and some of Taiwan's biggest banks.

Saudi Arabia to pay grain farmers twice world rate

DUBAI (R) — Saudi King Fahd has ordered spending of more than \$1.6 billion this year to pay subsidies to wheat and barley farmers at double the current world rates, a Saudi newspaper said Sunday. Okaz daily said farmers would be offered two riyals per kilogramme (\$533 per tonne) of wheat and one riyal per kilogramme (\$267 per tonne) of barley. It said the total payment was expected to reach more than six billion riyals (\$1.6 billion), but gave no breakdown of expected production. Wheat from other international producers is priced around \$200 to \$270 per tonne, while barley is \$100 to \$110. The newspaper said the payments were intended to boost wheat and barley output to make the kingdom one of the biggest world producers. Ambitious irrigation projects and a 20-year drive to develop its farming sector have already turned Saudi Arabia into the world's sixth largest wheat exporter.

China issues circular on control of stock markets

BEIJING (R) — China has issued what it calls its most comprehensive document on control of its fledgling stock markets, the Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

The State Council, or cabinet, officially set up two watchdog agencies to monitor securities markets which experienced a rocky start in this communist country.

"There have been some disorders in the country's securities markets owing to the lack of laws, regulations and supervision systems in this field, lack of experience in operating securities markets and the lack of investors' consciousness of risks," the official agency said.

Last August would-be investors rioted in Shenzhen, the South China, when word circulated that securities officials had boarded tickets coaling purchase of stock.

A spokesman for the securities committee of the State Council, one of the two new organisations to ride shotgun on the markets, told Xinhua the circular was the most systematic and comprehensive document on control of China's securities markets.

The circular calls for a wider opening of China's securities markets, while providing for more overall control by government.

"It is imperative to issue new type of securities, including investment fund bonds, convertible bonds and trust beneficiary certificates, so as to enrich and invigorate the securities markets," the circular was quoted as saying.

Xinhua gave no other details on the document.

China's leaders have recently vowed to keep control over the

economy and social order, revealing in speeches their twin fears of economic overheating and loss of political control.

Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, addressing "old comrades" demanded that China clamp down on money supply, credit and project planning to keep the economy — which grew at a booming 12 per cent last year — from running out of control.

Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, addressing "old comrades" demanded that China clamp down on money supply, credit and project planning to keep the economy — which grew at a booming 12 per cent last year — from running out of control.

He condemned corruption and decadent capitalist thought, and said China must not relax one iota in its fight to keep social order.

"We must strictly control the amount of money issued and the scale of credit," Mr. Jiang said, in a speech on the front page of the People's Daily.

"We must effectively block and overcome blind competition for speed and the phenomenon of low quality, duplicated construction," he said.

Premier Li Peng, in a separate speech also reported on the People's Daily's front page, called for more effective state control over the economy.

While he praised the economic accomplishment of the past year, he said China's economy lacked many of the key tools needed to ensure that the country could deal with the highs and lows of the business cycle.

"The main reason is that we still do not have scientific and

effective macroeconomic control mechanisms," he said. "The basic economic relationships between the state and the enterprises and between the centre and the localities are still not completely smooth."

At the root of the leaders' worries is concern that the economy is on the verge of overheating, forcing China once again to confront the spectre of runaway inflation.

The last time the economy overheated, in 1988, the economic pain helped set the stage for the pro-democracy demonstrations centred in Tiananmen Square, crushed by the army with heavy loss of life on June 4, 1989.

China is far from that point now, even though inflation is in the low double digits in every urban area.

But the Communist Party leaders — who in the run-up to the lunar new year have executed at least 59 criminals — are taking no chances.

"We must continue to clamp down in our work to maintain social order," Mr. Jiang said. He said that while China can use capitalist economics to get rich, it cannot afford the incursion of capitalist thought.

"We must withstand the corrosive influence of decadent capitalist and feudalistic thought," the head of the world's largest Communist Party said.

Mr. Jiang said that despite a shakeup of the armed forces at the end of last year many unspecified problems still had to be solved.

He said the communist party itself could not let down its guard against corruption within its 51 million members.

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S. Africa talks resume; whites warn de Klerk

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's pro-government Afrikaans press has warned President F.W. de Klerk on the eve of renewed talks with black leaders that he is leaving white voters behind in his drive towards an all-race democracy.

The government resumes direct negotiations with Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's conservative Inkatha Freedom Party on Monday after a four-month hiatus.

And on Wednesday senior representatives of Mr. De Klerk's white government begin a five-day High Veld retreat with top African National Congress (ANC) negotiators to put flesh on the bones of an agreement reached at a similar private encounter in December.

Both meetings and a possible summit between Chief Buthelezi and ANC leader Nelson Mandela will be designed to restart all-party talks about giving the five-to-one black majority a share of political power for the first time in 300 years.

But the country's most influential Afrikaans newspapers warned bluntly in weekend columns that Mr. De Klerk was losing the support of the whites who elected him in 1989 and gave him a 69 per cent approval rating in a referendum on reform last year.

"Dissatisfaction is breaking out everywhere like measles," Die Burger said Saturday in the Davie column, possibly the country's most influential Afrikaans political commentary.

"If there is one thing the government is going to have to put its heart and soul into in the coming months, it will be to regain its lost stature among white voters," Die Burger said.

Warning that whites fear a surrender of power and oppression by blacks, the newspaper urged Mr. De Klerk to take white voters forward step by step "into the dark future."

The top-selling Afrikaans Sunday newspaper Rapport voiced a similar warning in its editorial comment.

"The feeling among the government's supporters that must be addressed is that they don't know where they are going. Worse, that instead of an orderly transition, they could end up with a total surrender and possible chaos," Rapport said.

The ANC's policy-making national working committee was due to meet Monday to prepare for the Veld encounter, which will start after a cabinet meeting with Mr. De Klerk Wednesday.

The ANC and the government are both eager to resume all-race democracy talks, which stalled last May in a dispute over minority vetoes in the formulation of a new constitution and broke down totally a month later.

"We hope to get it right this time... a tremendous amount of progress has been made in bilateral talks," ANC negotiator Mohammad Valli Moosa told reporters.

A senior government source told Reuters the ANC and the government had significantly narrowed the gap between their positions on powers for regional authorities and on the need for a government of national unity for at least the first five years of democratic rule.

The ANC wants a strong central government, but Mr. De Klerk's national party favours strong regional authorities and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha wants a form of federalism.



PILGRIMAGE: Pilgrims climb down from the roof of an overcrowded train ferrying tens of thousands of Muslims from the countryside to the town of Tongi on Sunday, the second day of Bawa Ijtima (World Muslim Congress) in Bangladesh (AFP photo)

Yugoslav units reenter Bosnia war

SARAJEVO (AP) — The Serb-dominated Yugoslav army has reentered the war it formally quit seven months ago, returning fire after Muslims in Bosnia lobbed shells across the border, army sources said Sunday.

The Yugoslav army "responded fiercely" to artillery attacks Sunday and Saturday from neighbouring Bosnia, Tanjug, the official news agency of Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia, reported without elaboration.

No ground troops were involved, only artillery salvos at military targets across the border, according to a source at Yugoslav army headquarters in Belgrade.

It was the first time that Yugoslav units, now comprised of only Serbia and tiny Montenegro, have acknowledged involvement in the Bosnian war since May 19. The last Yugoslav units formally pulled out on that date, leaving behind tanks and other heavy weapons for Serb rebels.

Since then, both Yugoslav and Serbian officials have denied wide-spread accusations that they

are helping Bosnian Serbs.

Meanwhile, a U.N. convoy tried anew to reach isolated Zepa, a Muslim enclave of about 20,000 people that is reportedly being starved by surrounding ethnic-Serb fighters.

Serb fighters turned back the truck convoy Saturday within sight of Zepa because the road was blocked by logs. In doing so, they stopped 80 tonnes of relief supplies from reaching the town, where hundreds of people have reportedly died from hunger and cold.

Barry Frewer, spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers, said the convoy spent the night in Podromani, a half way between Zepa and Sarajevo, after turning back just outside Zepa, 65 kilometres east of Sarajevo.

Commander Frewer said the convoy on Sunday would try to reach Zepa by another route, recommended by Bosnian fighters.

"There's no thought of pulling back before we have exhausted all possibilities in getting

through," he said of the enclave that has not received aid since the outbreak of the nearly 10-month-old civil war.

Zepa's shortwave radio operators, the only link to the outside world, say hundreds of people have died in and around their town of hunger and cold. Other regions have reported similar disasters.

Bosnian radio on Saturday reported 60 people froze to death in the last few days in the region of Zvornik, on the Serbian border 100 kilometres northeast of Sarajevo.

The cross-border artillery exchanges between Bosnian and Yugoslav units occurred near Bratunac, a Bosnian town 120 kilometres northeast of Sarajevo. Local Serb commanders in Bratunac said they were trying to counter a Muslim offensive they described as the toughest in the region since the war began in February.

The Serb commanders accused Muslim-led troops of recent massacres of civilians in the region.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lankan rebel leader dies in ship blast

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels confirmed Sunday that one of their leaders was killed when the ship in which he was travelling was intercepted by the Indian navy, Tamil sources said. "The Tamil Tiger radio in northern Sri Lanka has announced Sathasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, has been killed and the rebels are paying homage to him," a leader of a rival Tamil group said Sunday. The leader who did not want to be identified said his information was based on monitoring the radio station of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in their northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold. Other Tamil sources in Colombo also confirmed the rebel announcement in Jaffna. An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said Saturday navy vessels had surrounded the ship, the Abat, off the southern Indian port of Madras after discovering it was carrying arms and ammunition. They ordered the Abat to surrender. Instead the guerrillas set off the explosion.

Indonesia to get 39 German warships in April

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian navy is to take delivery of 39 ageing former East German vessels in April, including Corvettes and minesweepers, Antara news agency reported Sunday. Antara quoted Rear Admiral Tanto Koeswanto as saying the consignments would also include 14 landing ship transports. Foreign defence analysts in Jakarta say the ships will allow the Indonesian navy to play a more effective role in the waters around the archipelago.

Japan reports epilepsy from video games

TOKYO (R) — Japanese hospitals have reported at least a dozen cases in which children have had epileptic fits while playing computer video games, the daily Tokyo Shimbun said Sunday. The Citizen's Hospital in the northern city of Niigata said doctors had treated 10 such patients aged between 10 and 15 since 1985. Another hospital in northern Miyagi prefecture had reported two cases since 1988, Tokyo Shimbun said. Britain recently launched an inquiry into whether children could suffer epileptic fits from playing computer games after two boys in Cardiff had seizures. Japan's Health Ministry said last week that it would investigate the effects of computer games.

Broadcast of Noriega phone calls probed

MIAMI (R) — A U.S. grand jury is investigating Cable News Network (CNN) in connection with its 1990 broadcast of Manuel Noriega's telephone calls from prison, a Miami newspaper reported Saturday. Special prosecutor Robert Dunlap has subpoenaed two CNN staff members, demanding they produce tapes and other information about the telecast, the Miami Herald reported. A CNN spokeswoman confirmed the existence of the subpoena, which seeks tapes of the network's Noriega telecasts from Nov. 9 and 10, 1990, but declined to identify the two staff members, the newspaper reported. The probe surrounds a dispute between the Atlanta-based television network and U.S. Judge William Hoeweler, who presided over Mr. Noriega's trial. Mr. Hoeweler had ordered CNN to refrain from broadcasting the taped conversations between Mr. Noriega and his lawyers. The leaking of the tapes raised the question of whether prosecutors had realised an unfair advantage over the deposed Panamanian dictator by learning his defence strategy. Last year Mr. Noriega was found guilty of cocaine trafficking and is serving a 40-year prison sentence.

Mobutu official dies in Zairean unrest

KINSHASA (R) — A senior official of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's party died Saturday, the second day of a mass campaign to depose the army-backed ruler. Members of Mr. Mobutu's Popular Revolutionary Movement (MPR) said the party's secretary-general, Makobu Bidimo, was stabbed and kicked to death by an anti-Mobutu crowd in Kinshasa. Opposition sources said he was threatened by the crowd, but died of an asthma attack as he tried to flee. The Sacred Union opposition alliance has declared a week of civil disobedience and an indefinite general strike in a campaign to oust Mr. Mobutu. The country's interim parliament Thursday declared Mr. Mobutu guilty of high treason and gave him eight days to answer accusations he was blocking moves to multi-party democracy or face trial in Zaire's supreme court.

Cuba: No concessions for better U.S. ties

HAVANA (R) — Cuba will not make any concessions in its political principles to restore normal relations with the United States, Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has said. "We are not going to make the slightest concession towards a country that is in an illegal position," Mr. Alarcon said in an interview carried by the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina. He added U.S. hostility towards Cuba and a longstanding U.S. economic embargo against the communist-ruled island were "abnormal" in terms of international law. Cuban-U.S. relations, which have been hostile for more than 30 years, would return to normal "from the moment the U.S. treats Cuba as a sovereign and independent state," Mr. Alarcon said. He was clearly spelling out on Cuba's position less than a week before Bill Clinton was due to take over the U.S. presidency from George Bush. Cuban President Fidel Castro has said Cuba will never abandon its one-party communist system.

Police kill Medellin cartel hitman

BOGOTA (AP) — Police in Medellin shot and killed a leading Medellín drug cartel hitman who was a member of the inner security circle of fugitive drug boss Pablo Escobar, authorities said Saturday. Victor Granada and a group of fellow gunmen travelling in two vehicles exchanged gunfire with members of an elite police force on a street in western Medellin, the city's police department said. Granada was the fifth cartel leader to be killed by the army and police in the past three months. Police records show he was involved in several high-profile assassinations, including the December killing of an intelligence police chief in Medellin. Officials say Mr. Escobar has ordered his men to kill some 90 Medellín policemen since escaping from his luxurious prison last July 22. The drug boss has threatened to step up terrorism unless authorities relax efforts to track him down. There have been some 6,000 house-to-house searches in and around Medellin. So far, the government has kept pressure on Mr. Escobar by targeting his leading hitmen.

Bangladesh detains lethal syrup manufacturers

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladesh court has detained two pharmacists for trial for manufacturing a paracetamol syrup which killed hundreds of children, court sources said Sunday. They said Harunur Rashid and Abdur Rah, managing director and director of Polycam Laboratories, Bangladesh, surrendered to a court dealing with drug offences Saturday. They were ordered to be held in custody until their trial. If convicted they face jail sentences of up to 10 years, law officials told reporters. The government last month banned the sale and use of paracetamol syrup after doctors blamed it for widespread renal failure leading to the deaths of hundreds of children. A study by doctors at Dhaka Children's Hospital found that the syrup, a local pharmaceutical product which proved very effective against fever, contained diethylene glycol, harmful to the kidneys.

Closure of Filipino-Chinese schools urged

MANILA (R) — A leader of the Filipino-Chinese business community has urged the closure of all Chinese schools in the country to prevent further kidnappings of local Chinese youths, Manila newspapers said Sunday. James Dy, president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the government should suspend classes at the schools for the rest of the academic year ending in March unless it can guarantee an end to kidnappings. Dy made his proposal while talking to reporters Saturday more than a week after 15-year-old Filipino-Chinese school girl Charlene Sy was shot and killed by police in a gunbattle with her kidnappers. Four kidnappers died in the shootout. "At this point, what is important are the lives of the children who might be the next kidnap victim," Mr. Sy was quoted as saying.

COLUMN

Film theatre to install love seats

LONDON (R) — A London cinema plans to install new love seats, complete with condoms, for romantic couples in the back row, a newspaper said Saturday. Ben Freedman, managing director of the Prince Charles Theatre, told the Guardian newspaper the innovation will be ready by Valentine's Day on Feb. 14. "Fifty per cent of people who go to the cinema are out on a date," he said. "So I decided to make it easier for them," he told the newspaper. "And I've decided to make condoms inclusive... you never know what people will get up to in the West End," he added, referring to the capital's entertainment district. Champagne, chocolate and roses will be included in the price of the Valentine's Day ticket, which has not yet been announced.

There's gold in them thar trees

TOKYO (R) — Japanese experts say they can pinpoint underground gold deposits by testing the leaves of certain trees for gold content, the daily Tokyo Shimbun reported Sunday. Analysts at the Metal Mining Industry Association, an affiliate of the Trade Ministry, told the daily they had studied the gold content of plants growing above 12 gold mines in Japan. They had found high concentrations of fine, powder gold in the leaves of three kinds of trees — the gromwell, spicebrush and Japanese beech, the daily said. Association experts said roots of these plants were able to absorb fine gold dust from underground water. The powder then found its way into the leaves. Inspecting leaves would be much cheaper than random drilling for gold veins, they told the daily. The method could be used to pinpoint veins after a general prospective area had been designated in a geological survey, which normally uses aerial and satellite photographs. The association started its research in 1987 and would continue until next year to collect more data, the newspaper said. It did not say if new gold veins had been discovered using the method.

Curator put away for safe keeping

DUBLIN (R) — A former curator of one of Europe's leading collections of Oriental and Islamic art started a five-year jail sentence Friday for stealing manuscripts, paintings and other artefacts from his own museum. David James, 51, pleaded guilty to the theft of artefacts worth about £750,000 from Dublin's Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art. Mr. James, an expert on Islamic art who had worked for the library for 20 years, was estimated to have made about £162,000 for himself by selling artefacts to dealers and collectors. Dublin criminal court heard that most of the stolen items had been recovered.

Prison course gave forger printing skills

NICE, France (R) — A French forger who perfected his skills in prison has been arrested for printing U.S. banknotes worth more than \$600,000, police said Saturday. The forger, Jacky Lopinot, used a sophisticated colour photocopying technique to print the \$100 and \$50 banknotes. Police said he improved his technique on a printing course while serving a 18-month jail term for forgery in 1991. His teacher was a forger held for producing near-perfect French banknotes worth 40 million francs (\$7 million). Mr. Lopinot, 54, and an accomplice carrying the forged dollars in a bag were detained in the Riviera resort of Nice Friday.

Immigration boss fired over missing passports

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — The head of Tanzania's immigration department has been fired in a scandal over 10,000 new passports which were stolen from the Foreign Ministry. A government statement said Ali Mnyika and seven other senior immigration officers had also been sacked pending investigations into the scandal. It said that to date only 10 passports had been recovered and the people who held them had been arrested. Mr. Mnyika himself disclosed Thursday that passports worth \$250,000 had gone missing from a consignment of about 80,000 ordered by the government from its British printers. They were to have been sent to foreign embassies in diplomatic bags. Five people of Somali origin have also been arrested in connection with the theft.

Clinton nominee pays fine for hiring illegal aliens

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — U.S. Attorney General-nominee Zoe Baird and her husband Saturday paid a \$2,500 fine for employing illegal aliens in their home, a Clinton transition spokesman said.

Communications Director George Stephanopoulos said: "We are pleased the matter is now resolved."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said in a statement that Mr. Clinton "has complete confidence in Zoe Baird, whose disclosures in this matter have been forthright from the beginning."

"And he looks forward to her confirmation and service as attorney general of the United States," he said.

The fine was a civil penalty requested by the Immigration

and Naturalisation Service (INS) paid by Ms. Baird and her husband. "In connection with the hiring of a babysitter and her husband who did not have authorisation to work in this country,"

Revelations of the employment arrangement and failure until recent weeks to pay social security taxes on the couple prompted a call for Ms. Baird's prosecution by House of Representatives Republican whip Newt Gingrich of Georgia.

Mr. Gingrich said Ms. Baird had no business in President-elect Clinton's cabinet.

"Clearly she has crossed the line," he said. "You can't have a person who ought to be prosecuted, serving in the cabinet."

"It is inconceivable to have an attorney general nominee, someone who is sworn to uphold and enforce the nation's laws, doing something like this," Mr. Gingrich said.

If confirmed, Ms. Baird would oversee the (INS), which enforces the 1986 immigration reform and control act. The law carries civil penalties of up to \$3,000 per count for businesses and individuals who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

While the penalties for immigration violations are relatively small, the penalty for social security tax violations can involve fines of up to \$100,000 and prison terms.

"It is clear that we are creating a double standard where

such actions can cause a small business owner to face jail or bankruptcy, but allow Mrs. Baird to become attorney general," Mr. Gingrich said.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have said they doubt the disclosure will derail Mrs. Baird's confirmation to head the Justice Department.

A spokesman for Sen. Trent Lott, (Republican-Mississippi), who is coordinating Republican scrutiny of all Clinton nominees in the Senate, said Friday that Republicans were prepared to question Mrs. Baird on the issue but that, depending on her answers, it probably would not be disqualifying.

"I think it'll be an issue," spokesman Bruce Lott said. "It may not be a killer issue."

An attorney for Mr. Baird, Thomas H. Belote, said he advised her and her husband that she was unlikely to be fined for what he called a technical violation of federal immigration law. His letter was released by Clinton transition officials.

Ms. Baird is general counsel of Aetna Life and Casualty Co. in New Haven. Her husband, Paul Gewirtz, is a law professor at Yale.

The Peruvian couple no longer works for Ms. Baird and Mr. Gewirtz. The man left his work as a driver for Ms. Baird last March, and the woman left after the election in November.

Bush ready to 'shift gears' in four days

CAMP DAVID, Maryland (Agencies) — President George Bush said Saturday he was not bitter or resentful over leaving the White House and was ready to "shift gears" in a few days and be a private citizen again.

"There's no point in trying to continue something that isn't," he said of his presidency, which has three more days to run before President-elect Bill Clinton is inaugurated Wednesday.

"And I'm trying to conduct myself with dignity, and hopefully in a spirit of total cooperation with Governor Clinton," Mr. Bush said, adding: "No bitterness in my heart."

The president made his comments to reporters at the Camp David, Maryland, presidential retreat. He and his wife Barbara were spending their final weekend at the presidential retreat with visiting Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his family.

Mr. Mulroney had just arrived in a helicopter and was standing beside Mr. Bush as he spoke while Mrs. Bush, Mr. Mulroney's wife Milla, and three of the Mulroneys' children lingered nearby.

"January 20, when I walk out of that Capitol, I'm a private citizen. And I hope I'll be treated as a private citizen," Mr. Bush told reporters.

"I'm not looking to sit at the head table. I'm not looking to have press conferences," he said. "We're gonna really shift gears like that."

Mr. Bush was certain to have to spend at least part of his last weekend working on the situation in Iraq. He said he would consult with Mr. Mulroney and other Gulf war allies as well as the United Nations on an offer from Iraq of conditional safe passage for U.N. planes.

But there was some time in the schedule for relaxing with Mr. Mulroney, a good friend of the

president, and his family. Mrs. Bush, who spoke to reporters before the Mulroneys arrived, said they would "visit and bowl" at Camp David's bowling alley.

Several U.S. Supreme Court judges were scheduled to drop in to see the president. And a country-western singer, George Strait, was to provide the evening's entertainment.

After Mr. Clinton's inauguration Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Bush leave Washington for their home in Houston. But unlike a number of former presidents, Mr. Bush was not taking a pool of reporters with him on his plane home.

"On Jan. 20, I'm through with press pools," he said. "I shift over to the new president."

But Mrs. Bush, who has said she thought the media were biased against her husband during the campaign, ordered reporters a different insight into why they were not invited on the trip out of Washington.

"Maybe we'll take all those people who were for us," she joked.

The White House personnel chief, Constance Hornet, sent a message to more than 500 top Bush appointees Thursday telling them that they, too, were finished at noon on inauguration day. Mr. Clinton's transition team had hoped to keep some on, at least temporarily.

While Mr. Clinton's inaugural festivities commence in the capital on Sunday, the Bushes will stay holed away here atop the Calcutt Mountains until Monday evening.

Mrs. Bush, clad in her own snow parka against the sub-freezing chill, sat in a golf cart and reflected on Wednesday's move to Houston.

"I'm looking forward to going home," she said. "I didn't like losing, but I'm looking forward to going home. In fact, my head is there right now."

'Royal tapes' in full in British newspapers

LONDON (AP) — Two Sunday tabloids published full transcripts of an intimate, taped conversation allegedly between Prince Charles and an ex-girlfriend.

The Sunday Mirror and the People are the latest newspapers to reveal all. The transcript first appeared last week in the Australian magazine New Idea. Three Irish and two British newspapers followed suit.

Buckingham Palace has refused to comment on the transcript, which reportedly captured Prince Charles murmuring bedtime endearments via portable telephone to Camilla Parker Bowles.

Sunday Mirror Editor Colin Myler, in a page two statement headlined "your right to know," saw that the future king's royal subjects deserved to know the details of the titillating bedtime exchange.

"I believe it is wrong that the near nine million readers of this newspaper should be denied the right to read something so important affecting the future king of England, when people in Australia, Germany, America and Ireland already have."

"Yes, I will be criticised. Yes, I will be damned, but why should the people of Britain be treated with such hypocrisy and contempt?"

The people started its transcript on the front page, with the headline: "Read the royal love tape in full."

In an editorial, the newspaper pointed to widespread circulation of the transcript in some circles.

UNHCR envoy slams Cambodia peace force

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — United Nations goodwill ambassador Barbara Hendricks has urged peacekeepers in Cambodia to get tough on ceasefire violations or poll out.

Ms. Hendricks — one of the world's leading opera singers — told reporters that visits to mine-clearing sites, refugee centres and resettlement areas and talks with Cambodians had convinced her the people's main fear was the U.N. force's inability to provide adequate security.

"My own personal feeling is that if we're going to have a U.N. military presence they have got to have some authority and stop the ceasefire violations; otherwise, I mean, it's really a farce," she said.

Ms. Hendricks, an American, is an envoy for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"If we can't do it here (achieve peace)... we can't do it anywhere. We might as well close down the house and give money back," she said, referring to the \$2 billion price tag on the mission of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The U.N.-sponsored peace agreement signed in Paris in 1991 by all four rival Cambodian factions paved the way for the 22,000-strong UNTAC force to supervise the running of the country until elections scheduled for next May at the latest.

But the ambitious accord has been lurching from one crisis to another because of the armed intransigence of the hardline Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction and an increasing wave of political violence sweeping the country.

Ms. Hendricks said UNTAC's inability to deal with the dual problems worried her.

"That is really one of things that concerns me most: Their (UNTAC) inability or unwillingness — I don't know which it is —

to really deal very forcefully with those ceasefire violations," she said.

"I can't say where the problem is but I can say it's not being done."

Ms. Hendricks, a goodwill envoy for 12 years, said her next opera performance would be to sing at the inauguration concert for U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton on Jan. 19.

She said she hoped to be able to talk to Mr. Clinton to voice her concerns about Cambodia directly to him.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali plans to visit Cambodia in February to lend moral support to the fragile U.N. peacekeeping operation, the United Nations announced.

A U.N. statement said Dr. Ghali revealed his plans to Hor Nam Hong, a member of Cambodia's interim, Supreme National Council and foreign minister of the Phnom Penh government.

"They expressed their hope that the difficulties created by one of the political parties would be overcome," the statement said in an obvious reference to the Khmer Rouge.

No precise dates were given but U.N. sources thought the visit would take place early in February and be followed by a visit to Japan.

Remains identified

Human remains dug up in Cambodia last year have been identified as those of an American correspondent who disappeared 23 years ago while covering the war in southeast Asia, a National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) official said Saturday.

Welles Hanger's remains were positively identified Friday night by the U.S. Army central identification laboratory in Honolulu, said Arthur Lord, a senior producer for NBC News.